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Cottage Life

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YOUR
KIDS A
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See p. 8

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✓ Friends

They make our lives a little different
Leave us a little bit changed
So we leave behind proof of the time we spent together
Some will show us that we actually like country music
Or help us find our favorite Indian food
They drag us into their madness
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So we let their likes become our likes
And the things they share become the things we share
They challenge our point of view
Push us out of what's comfortable
And we trust them just enough to follow
But each changes us, even if just by a little
Each shifts the trajectory of our life
Simply by being our friend



Cottage Life

Spring 2015

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 1



Look for the Blippar icon throughout the issue to instantly watch videos, share your opinions, and more. It's easy to get started: see p. 8

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Cottage Life



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A: It's an app that gets you free, exclusive, interactive content from the pages of *Cottage Life*.

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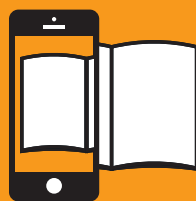
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Your new Cottage Life

WHAT I'VE LEARNED THIS ISSUE

1. Cottages within commuting distance of Calgary could well become more affordable in 2015. p.48.

2. We know them as entertainment hubs, laid-back retreats and, sometimes, opportunities for investment. Now cottages have a lovely, new purpose as grandchild catchers. p.46.

3. The Americans are coming (back), and Canadians should think about getting into the market ahead of them. p.50.

How do you like our new interactive magazine? Send an email to letters@cottagelife.com.

My father has a story about sailing in the Bahamas. He was anchored in a small harbour when a local teenager pulled up with a boatload of conch. Holding one of the lovely pink shells in his hand, the boy did a quick twist with a hammer and a knife, extracted the meat, and squeezed a wedge of fresh lime overtop. Then he offered the morsel to my dad.

"Man, that's fresh," Dad said, after swallowing.

"Man, that's *alive*," said the boy.

It's a tale that has been recounted for decades in my family, and I smiled when I thought of it again today. I'd been wondering how to explain to you that we've figured out a way to bring the pages of the magazine to life. Really. You don't even have to leave your chair to watch a video of Colin and Justin making the headboard and lamps you'll see on p. 42. Want to spend time with Kevin and Andrew Buckles, the stars of the Cottage Life channel's runaway hit, *Brojects*? No, don't get up—you can instantly watch their video when you turn to p. 65. Interested in real estate tips? The videos are here for you, on p. 48.

How do you get these extra features? It's easy, thanks to Blippar (see opposite). In fact, download the app, launch it, and you can "Blipp" me. All you do is hover your smartphone or tablet over this page, and I'll talk to you. Try it. It's not creepy at all.

And that's only the beginning of what you'll find in this issue. Look for the orange icon signalling that a page has special features. Save money right away by Blipping the discount entry coupon to the Spring Cottage Life Show inside the back cover of this issue. Should farmers stop using the pesticides that may be harming bumblebees? Share your opinion by Blipping p. 31. In addition to finding step-by-step directions for building a folding kid-sized picnic table, on p. 84 you can download free plans for a full-size adult table. And on p. 14, there's a cool video explaining how Keen came up with



an innovative new shoe. As our presenting partner, Keen is the first advertiser to activate its ad in *Cottage Life*.

We're excited that we can share so much fun stuff with you, and now we're asking for your suggestions. What kinds of extra features would you like us to include in the magazine? Use your imagination, then Blipp this page to send us your comments—or send an email to letters@cottagelife.com.

We'll also be showing off this issue at the Spring Cottage Life Show, March 27-29 in Toronto, along with the team that puts together our television channel, plus many of your favourite magazine and TV personalities. Check out the back pages of this magazine for more details.

We always try to keep our stories fresh, whether we're returning to perennial themes like cottage succession planning and winterizing the water system or exploring new issues, such as what's happening to our bees. Now, we can bring you so much more. We're thrilled to watch the magazine come alive, and we hope that you will be too.

Penny



Blipp to watch Penny's video guide to this issue's new interactive content

TWEET

@LAismylady

Nice photos in @cottagelife Winter 2014/15 edition of @Cmdr_Hadfield's favourite place on #earth.

@Merry120

My skidoo helmet makes me look like Darth Vader. #LukeIAmYourFather #cottagelife #snowmobiling

@TheGeoffMay

I just found my favourite @cottagelife article, "The Secret to Making the Perfect Plate of Nachos"

@lesleybworld

@cottagelife GBay NY2015 fun up at the cottage with our @TuckShopCo GBay hats we got for Xmas!!!

@odlozinski

Trek in for weekend retreat. Uninterrupted #familytime. Aside from frosty outhouse, @cottagelife in winter is sweet.



HIS FAVOURITE SPACE

There's nowhere else that Chris Hadfield would rather be than down-to-earth on Stag Island

By Jay Teitel Photography Daniel Ehrenworth

HAPPY WITH HADFIELD

Just thought I'd write to let you know how much I liked your last issue. I found the articles, including the feature about Chris Hadfield and his cottage ("His Favourite Space," Winter '14/'15), quite informative. I very much enjoy your magazine and look forward to the next issues.

—LEAH SPENCER, CARDSTON, ALTA.

OR...NOT

I couldn't wait for the Winter '14/'15 issue of *Cottage Life* to provide inspiration in terms of recipes and decor. Imagine my surprise when I found Chris Hadfield in shorts and a golf shirt on the cover. While he is an amazing man who has had a tremendous and positive impact on countless proud Canadians, I would rather have read about his first summer at the cottage in many years in, say, a summer issue.

—JOANNE FALK, VIA E-MAIL

SHUT IT OFF

After my family's annual Christmas week at the cottage, everyone left for the city, but I stayed for a few additional days of solitude. I finally had the latest issue of *Cottage Life* to myself. One of the Cottage Q&A items struck a chord. I'm thinking the answer to the question "Can I leave my solar lights outside all winter?" should have been: "Please, please take your solar lights in when you leave" ("Toilet Talk, Critter Call & Solar

Signs," Winter '14/'15). One reason for having a getaway is to get away from noise and light pollution. But this winter, just about every property on the lake had solar lights on the edge of their walkways, shore, and docks. When I went out at midnight one night to take in the sky and environment, I couldn't help thinking how unnecessary and distracting these lights can be. (One property across from our spot could pass for an airport runway.) Cottagers should consider how essential these lights really are, and whether leaving them out after everyone is gone serves a purpose. The creatures that live in this wilderness sure don't need (or want) them.

—ANDRE WOZNIAK, CAMPBELL LAKE, ONT.

AND TURN IT DOWN

Following up on Ron Bremer's rebuttal note regarding our letter on cruising and singing to sunsets on lakes ("Musical Cheers," Your Letters, Winter '14/'15), his family seems to be one in a million as they respected the peaceable enjoyment of others on the lake. For that we can all be grateful. Watching a sunset is indeed humbling. However, putting folks together with music on a lake for any purpose is rarely so respectful. Adding a guitar for a singalong is even worse. It is right up there with intrusive lakeside lighting. At the risk of coming across as major grumps (we aren't), we do not encourage this kind of activity, for which most of our neighbours and fellow cottagers are likely eternally thankful. What is happening to "getting away from it all?" We just don't understand it.

—ERECH AND INGRID MORRISON, LONG LAKE, ONT.

PRAISE THE COTTAGE

My husband and I became cottagers six years ago when we purchased a small place in the township of Muskoka. My three children have come to love our little oasis. My daughter (my oldest child) was never very outdoorsy, but has become a lover of photography, especially at the cottage. We are so proud because one of her photos was chosen as the May image for the 2015 Cottage Life Trivia Calendar. Thanks to our little cottage,

I truly believe that our children will be lifelong cottagers. And thanks to your magazine for guiding us along the way.
—JANE PIRES, THREE MILE LAKE, ONT.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY (FANTASTIC)

I thought I would write a little something about our cottage, because I think that my family and I represent a large number of cottagers that do not get recognized in your magazine. It's smaller than the average place shown in *Cottage Life*, but this doesn't mean we don't thoroughly enjoy our time there from spring to fall. The cottage was built in the 1950s by my uncle and later owned by my parents; in 1987, we bought the cottage from them, painted, and added many new features, including a large deck. We have spent every weekend there, lazing in the sun, watching the waves, staying up late to catch the northern lights and, yes, avoiding a few bears now and then. It's not a palace, but it's ours and we love it!

—NANCY SAMUELS, LAKE HURON, ONT.

A BREAKING POINT

We were sitting in Germany going through some photos from our summer vacation back home in the Westport, Ont., area and came across this picture (below). This was a special trip for us: our five-month-old boy had his first cottage experience, and my wife finally got a break. In any case, I wanted to let you know that we continue to enjoy your magazine and often find ourselves catching up with past issues. Unfortunately, our visit to the cottage is limited to an annual affair. Keep up the good work, and we look forward to the next editions this coming summer.

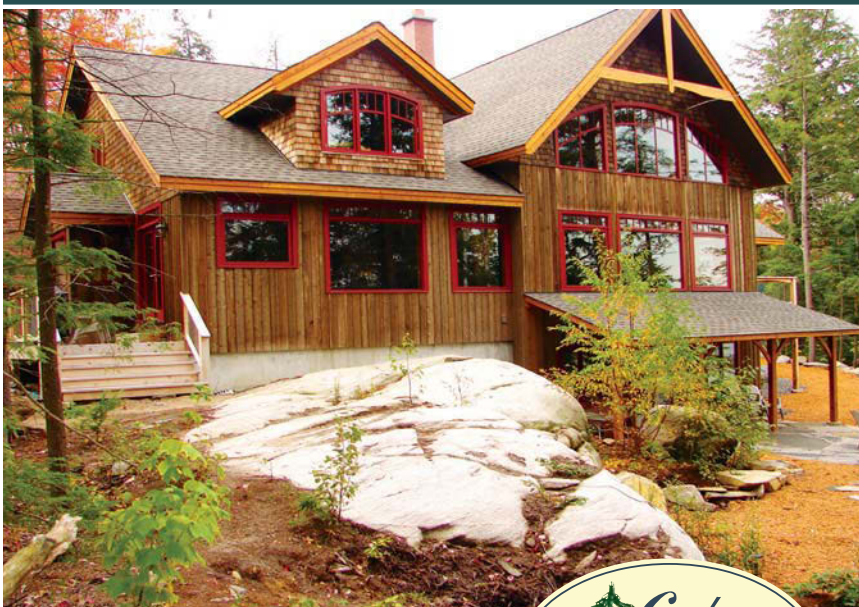
—MARK FOERCH, DREIEICH, GERMANY 🐼

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Waterfront

MOMENT

LAND OF PLENTY

Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Welcome to the Scotch Line Landfill, where locals find fully functioning lamps, old penny loafers, and at least one boat. And bears. Lots of bears.

Minden,
Ont.



TRIVIA

CREATURE FEATURES

Springtime is bug time, which means that soon, insects will be buzzing around your cottage windows and drowning in your wineglass. In honour of this annual occurrence, we compiled our favourite weird facts about our favourite creepy-crawlies.

In 1999, NASA sent ladybugs—and their prey, aphids—into space to see if they're still able to hunt in zero gravity. (Rest easy: they can.)



The larvae of one midge species can survive in liquid nitrogen, at -161°C .



Housefly taste buds are 10 million times more sensitive than human taste buds. Oh, and they're located on their feet.



An adult rhinoceros beetle can lift 850 times its own weight, equivalent to a human hoisting nine adult elephants.

ARTIFACT

Must be in the cards

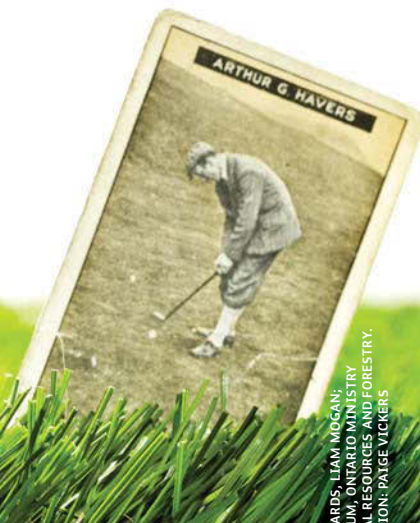
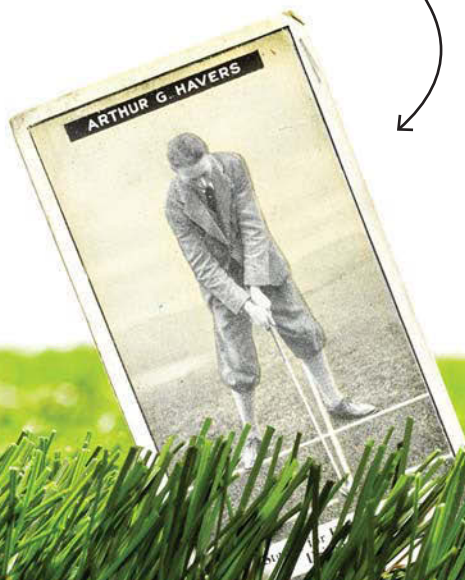
We all buy cottages to make memories. But the cottage my father bought in 1959 came with some of our memories already built in. And I do mean built in. Soon after buying the place, Dad decided to renovate. This renovation triggered the reappearance of my late and much-loved Great-Uncle Arthur Havers.

Arthur was a pro golfer who was the British Open Champion in 1923 and played for England on its Ryder Cup team in the 1920s and '30s. Around that time, the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada gave away trading cards with their cigarettes. Among these was a series of 50 cards titled "How to Play Golf." Some of these featured Arthur demonstrating such essential moves as "Stance for Full Shot with Driving Iron." I've tried to find a full set of these cards—they are as rare as unicorn poop.

The cottage had a set of French doors in the dining room, but the latch no longer kept them closed completely. When

Dad removed them temporarily, he discovered that, in a previous effort to fix this, someone long ago had inserted cardboard shims behind the hinges to bring the doors closer together. That clever DIYer must have figured that two cigarette cards might just do the trick. Yes, you guessed it: one of the cards featured Great-Uncle Arthur.

Of all the cottages in Canada, what are the odds? Mother suggested that Arthur was trying to contact us from The Great Beyond. I'm not so sure, but if she's right, I may get to play a round with him yet. —Stuart Brannan





ENVIRONMENT

GETTING MUSHY

John Smol, a biology professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., calls it the "jellification" of cottage lakes: the rise of a gooey menace with the potential to weaken the aquatic food web and bung up cottage water intake lines.

The villain is a gel-covered zooplankton called *Holopedium* (inset photo shows a single individual). Researchers link the rise of the tapioca-like creature to declining levels of calcium in watersheds subjected to more than a century of acid rain and logging. "Everything in the lake needs calcium," says Smol, who is part of the research team that made the discovery.

When calcium levels decline in granite-bottomed, soft-water lakes such as those on the Canadian Shield, it depresses populations of some species of "freshwater fleas" called *Daphnia*, but it boosts the population of *Holopedium*, which requires less calcium. That's bad news for fish. Being forced to eat *Holopedium* instead of *Daphnia* is like swapping meat and two veg for bubble-wrapped Cheezies.

An additional concern for cottagers is that globs of *Holopedium* could plug water intakes—something that has already happened to a municipal intake in Washington State. Reversing the situation won't be easy, Smol says. Adding calcium could help, but since jellification may afflict lakes across parts of Eastern Canada, the northeastern U.S., and areas of B.C. and the U.S. Pacific Northwest, "we're talking thousands of lakes. It's not really practical."

Terry Rees, the executive director of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, says that the discovery highlights the value of long-term lake studies, including decades of water chemistry surveys carried out by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change through the Dorset Environmental Science Centre. Without this monitoring, cottagers can be blindsided by dramatic changes in their lakes. "We've been vocal about supporting water science," Rees says. "The reason we're talking about this is because someone had the resources to start asking questions." —Ray Ford

Honeybees have six legs and five eyes.



In 2013, scientists announced they'd found a 46-million-year-old blood-engorged fossil mosquito in Montana. (Calm down, Michael Crichton! That's not old enough to contain dinosaur DNA.)



BUYABLE

YOU ASKED FOR IT

Another cottage season is rolling in: time to update your games cupboard! Our pick? Query, a Balderdash-like guessing and bluffing game. The developers used Internet search engines to match various Query Beginnings (“Is it crazy to...”) with the most common Query Endings (“...talk to yourself?”). The object is to correctly identify the most frequently searched questions and phrases, while tricking the other

players into thinking that your made-up versions are legit. While *Cottage Life* testers found the scoring system a little cumbersome at first, learning what the average North American is searching for online was intriguing and addictive. And strange. (“Do germs poop?”; “What personality type was Jesus?”; “Can a sloth kill you?”)

Playing Query is laid-back, quirky fun—but it doesn’t answer the most important query: “Why do people ask the Internet such weird questions?” Three or more players, 14 and up; \$28; querythegame.com.



Yeah, but what is everyone else going to drink?

Christine Bourne, Fortescue Lake, Ont.



CAPTION CONTEST

A Bourne supremacy

In our Winter '14/'15 issue, we asked for your comical lines to caption this wacky shot. From more than 2,000 entries, we chose cottager Christine Bourne's as the most chuckle-worthy. We raise a glass to you, Christine. Cheers!



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Stargazers, it's going to be a spectacular summer for keeping an eye on the night sky. So get out your binoculars and catch these six not-to-be-missed astronomical events. —Christa Thomas

April 4

Total lunar eclipse; the shadow starts crossing the moon's surface at 3:15 a.m. PDT/6:15 a.m. EDT, most visible in the West. East of Manitoba, the eclipse will be partial. April's full moon is called the "Full Pink Moon," its name derived from the wild pink ground phlox that blooms in spring.

July 18

Conjunction of Venus, Jupiter, and the crescent moon. The three brightest objects in the night sky will be close enough together to put on a memorable light show. Prepare for lots of sparkle.

May 22

Saturn at Opposition, visible for most of the night in the constellation Libra. Saturn, "the jewel of the solar system," will be closest to Earth, rising above the southeastern horizon, and fully illuminated by the sun.

Aug. 12–13

Perseid Meteor Shower. Radiating from the constellation Perseus, this annual event will produce up to 90 meteors per hour. With the new moon beginning on Aug. 13, it should be that much easier to see the shower.

June 16

Milky Way band rising low in the East during the new moon. As you are watching, keep in mind that Earth too is located in the Milky Way; watching another section of our galaxy rise is like peeking across a neighbour's fence.

Sept. 27

Total lunar eclipse. The year's second eclipse will occur all across North America, beginning just after 6 p.m. PDT/9 p.m. EDT, most visible in the East.



REPORTER

Fed rule, hero hit & old feet

Keep it real Sa-weet: new maple syrup rules, based on recommendations from the International Maple Syrup Institute—seriously, it's a real thing—came into effect this year. Amendments will "help consumers make more informed choices when buying maple syrup," says the federal government. According to IMSI, the old grading system was confusing; the updates should make it easier to distinguish between the real McCoy and products that "contain no real maple syrup or only very minimal amounts." Translation: the jig is up, maple fakers.

Live on the land Boots are good, but it's these feet that were made for walking: according to a recent research paper, fossils of footed aquatic scorpions, found in 430-million-year-old rocks from the Bruce Peninsula, show that they—and potentially other water-dwelling critters—might have evolved the ability to walk on land "surprisingly early in the fossil record." The new species, named *Eramoscorpius brucensis*, is the oldest-known scorpion in North America. Its legs look very similar to those of modern scorpions, and they end in a short foot that could be "placed flat on the ground, providing a weight-bearing surface."

For the wins The 2014 Canadian Safe Boating Awards, or "the Golden Globe awards of safe boating" (less Benedict Cumberbatch, more lifejackets) were announced in January; several organizations and individuals, including B.C.'s Gavin England, 13, were honoured for heroism, dedication, and outstanding accomplishments. England was recognized for rescuing his grandfather after their boat sank while they were prawning. For all the winners, visit csbc.ca.

Blipp to watch the touching video of Gavin describing his dramatic rescue



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GROUP OF TWO

The Doctor is in cottage country

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TARDIS VS. TARDIS

A (fictional) time-travelling spacecraft	← What is it? →	A (real) equipment shed
The Time Lords, of the planet Gallifrey	← Built by →	The Michalicka/Sornbergers, of the planet Earth
Uncertain	← Year of origin →	2014
Opaque windows; designed (originally) to suit its changing surroundings; withstands gunfire, missile attack, extreme cold, and more	← Construction →	Opaque windows; designed (originally) to suit contractor's deck plan; stores fishing gear, life-jackets, hockey sticks, and more
Can double as a bedroom; prone to breaking down; larger inside than it is on the outside	← Notable features →	Can double as a change room; produces confused reactions; larger inside than it is on the outside

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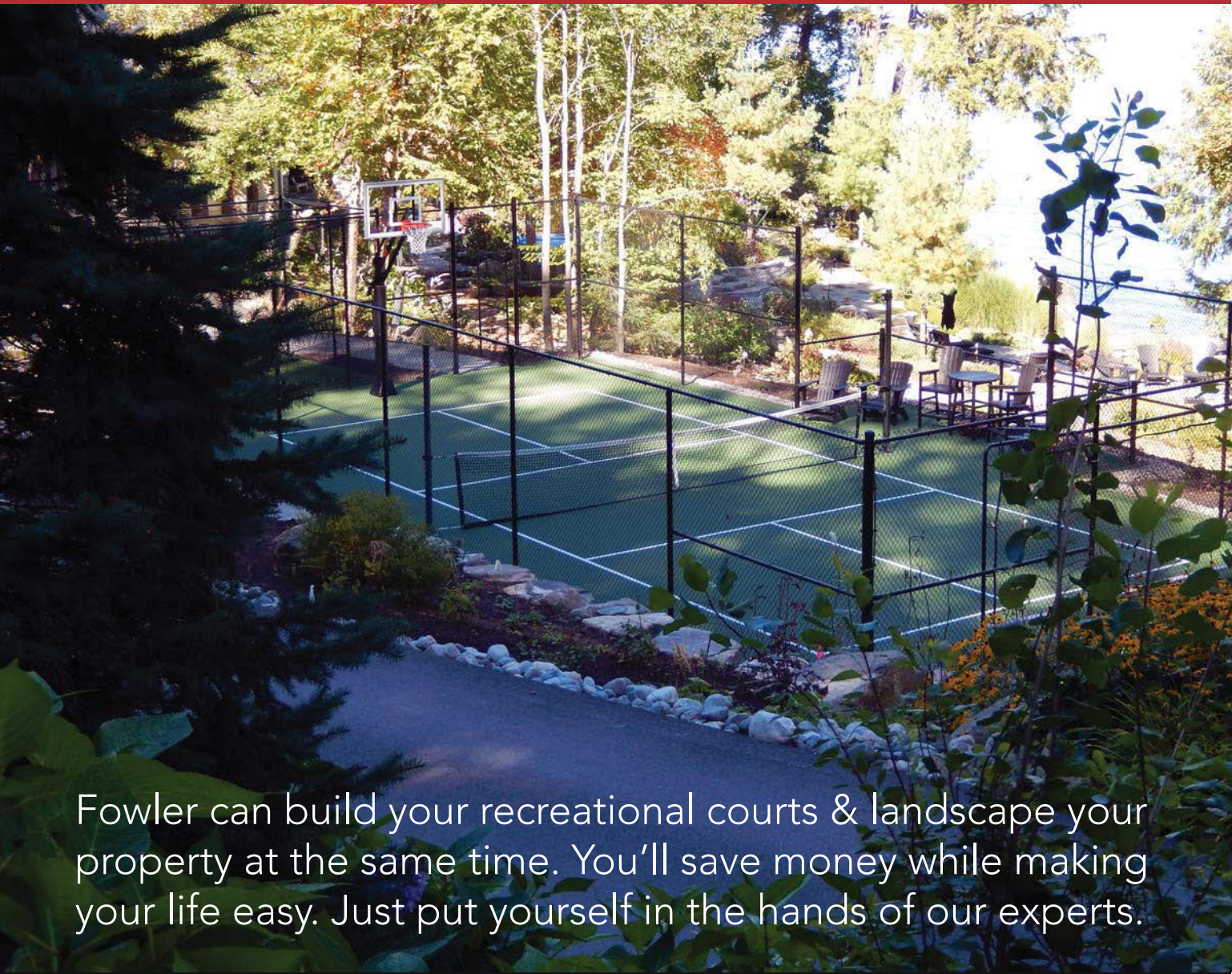
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Shelter source, best buys & grow ops

By Jackie Davis

MANY COTTAGES are built on piers. My neighbours suggested that in a tornado, a good refuge would be the open area underneath. Are they right?

—BRAVING THE STORM

No. Don't listen to them. At least, not about this: in a tornado, that's not a safe place. "The cottage could come down on you," says Geoff Coulson, a warning preparedness meteorologist with Environment Canada. (Remember what happened to the Wicked Witch?) And even though you'd be low to the ground (good) you wouldn't be enclosed (bad, really bad). Walls protect you from all sorts of windblown hazards. In a tornado, even small objects such as gravel and twigs turn into skin-ripping projectiles. In fact, taking shelter underneath a raised cottage may be *more* dangerous than being out in the open; the space under the cottage could act as a funnel, with winds channelling debris underneath. If that happens, "you've literally put yourself in the worst possible place," says Coulson. (For the same reason,

taking shelter under a highway overpass is also not a smart move.) Whether the cottage has a basement, is up on stilts, or is a simple one-room cabin, "your survivability is going to be higher inside, in the centre of the building, away from the exterior walls and the windows."

MY WIFE AND I are looking to buy a cottage. The owners are selling it "as is." Is this common? And is buying a cottage that's being sold "as is" a good idea?

—BEWILDERED BUYER

It's not *uncommon*. Selling "as is" usually means: what you see is what you're buying. The owners aren't prepared to fix any problems discovered during an inspection. But there are different reasons for this language—it's not always code for reno nightmare. "The term 'as is' can be a little ambiguous," says Judy Forster of Forster Realty in Regina Beach, Sask. It's typical in an estate sale or in a situation where the bank has foreclosed on a cottage. After all, "if the owners aren't around, you can't ask them to fix anything," says Chris Winney, a broker with Royal LePage Pro-Alliance Realty in Northbrook, Ont.

Other possibilities: the sellers don't have the cash to deal with the fixes that the cottage needs, or they suddenly inherited the cottage and have no interest in tackling any renos. Or "as is" may have nothing to do with the condition, says Wayne William Heine, with EdmontonLakeProperty.com in Spruce Grove, Alta. These owners could be using the term to indicate

that they want to sell the contents of the cottage too. "Some people say, 'Hey, I just want to take my personal belongings and walk out of here.' For buyers, that might be a good thing." Especially if the owners leave behind a valuable comic book collection or bottles of 70-year-old malt whisky! (What? It could happen.)

Still—and this goes for buying any cottage, in any condition—as a buyer, you have to do your due diligence. Get all the necessary inspections—duh—but also gather as much intel about the lot, the area, the lake, and the local politics as you can. Winney's tips include reading at least three issues of the regional newspaper, visiting the property at different times of the day, and talking to the neighbours. "Almost anything that's wrong with the cottage is fixable, but the environmental factors aren't," she says. "And if someone is putting pressure on you to make a decision, walk away. There are lots of other properties out there."

WE OWN some river property near Christina Lake, B.C., that is prone to high water in the spring. What could we plant on the riverbank to stabilize the ground?

—SEARCHING FOR STABILITY

"You can't go wrong with anything in the willow family," says Douglas Justice, the associate director, horticulture and collections at UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research. There are plenty of native varieties, from low and shrubby to tall and, well, willowy. They root rapidly, they grow quickly (reproduced from whips or cuttings that you plant), and they have flexible stems that can bend instead of break in high water or strong currents. They can even survive with their roots submerged for extended periods. For all those reasons, they're ideally suited to shorelines. "In general, around the temperate world, willows are adapted to those specific kinds of sites," says Justice. Don't want a willow? Another good option is red osier dogwood, a robust native shrub with shiny dark red branches.

Whichever species you use, if the erosion is very bad, plant close together to get more coverage, recommends Lorraine Johnson, the editor of the *Canadian Gardener's Guide*. The root systems anchor the soil and protect the fragile bank.

By the way, even if your cottage isn't in B.C., willows and red osier dogwood are still the top options. And no matter where you cottage, you can find info on other suitable riparian (waterfront) species by contacting a local native-plant nursery, says Justice. "The people there will have an understanding of the ecological effect of the plants in your area."

WHILE AT the cottage, I saw a chipmunk attack a dead mouse. I watched as the chipmunk tore open the flesh and carried the body away. It happened with several mice. Is this ordinary behaviour?

—TOTALLY GROSSED OUT

You may rarely see it, but the experts say that yes, in fact, it is normal. (This was soul-shaking news to us too. Chipmunks are small, sweet, and universally appealing. They're like baby carrots. Or Bruno Mars.)

The chipmunk was probably just taking advantage of a free meal. "Most members of the squirrel family—including chipmunks—will not pass up the protein when they find it," says John Koprowski, with the wildlife conservation and management department at the University of Arizona. "Nestling birds and mammals, eggs, insect larvae, and scavenged carcasses are all fair game. Acorns and pine seeds taste good. But apparently not good enough!"

In the animal kingdom, this sort of adaptive carnivorous behaviour is more common when food resources are scarce, says Franco Mariotti, the long-time staff scientist at Sudbury's Science North, who, as a student, was horrified when he witnessed a red squirrel pull a bird from a nest and eat it. Maybe the chipmunk you saw was going through a lean period, or perhaps it was a pregnant female craving protein, says Mariotti. "It makes you cringe to watch," he admits. "But from their perspective, it makes total sense."

WE HAVE some old furniture with drawers that stink of mothballs. I've tried sunning them outside, cleaning them with baking soda, and leaving a bowl of vinegar in there over winter. Nothing worked. Any ideas?

—MOTHBALLED OUT

As you've realized, the stench of mothballs is incredibly persistent. "It's just one of the toughest things to get rid of," says Scott Young, the owner of Young's

Antiques & Restoration in Belleville, Ont., who's smelled his share of old furniture. "It's almost worse than smoke."

You were on the right track with the fresh air, the baking soda, and the vinegar. "You want to try the cheapest and simplest methods first," advises Jolie Kerr, a cleaning expert and the author of *My Boyfriend Barfed in My Handbag...And Other Things You Can't Ask Martha*. (FYI: Google says that coffee grounds, lemon juice, and vodka are decent odour removers, but our experts don't recommend them for mothballs.) Kerr suggests a more powerful product, such as activated charcoal, from the fish section at the pet store. Put it in an open container in the stinky drawer, shut the drawer, and leave it for a week. "It's a great neutralizer," says Kerr. "And pretty much all you have to do is buy it. That's the hardest part."

If you're hitting up the pet store, kitty litter is a useful alternative. "It's cheap, innocuous, and effective," says Colleen Wilson, a textile conservator at the Royal BC Museum. If the drawers are removable and small enough, she suggests that you treat the individual pieces by sealing them—along with an old pillowcase filled with litter—in plastic storage bins or heavy-duty bags. "You want the kitty litter to be absorbing the mothball smell, not any other smells."

When you've exhausted these easy options—and drunk all the vodka, out of sheer frustration—it's time for something more drastic and labour intensive: trapping the odour by sealing the drawers with polyurethane or paint. However, there's no guarantee with that either: "I once used four coats of urethane on a piece of furniture," says Young, "and it still smelled of mothballs." But it may be worth trying if you're not willing to wait around. "We're so used to things happening instantly," says Wilson, but removing strong smells can require using "one trick for a long, long time." She successfully got rid of the smell of mothballs from an old military uniform—but only after putting it in a box with kitty litter for two years. She just had to change the litter once, so at least it was easier than looking after a cat. 🐾

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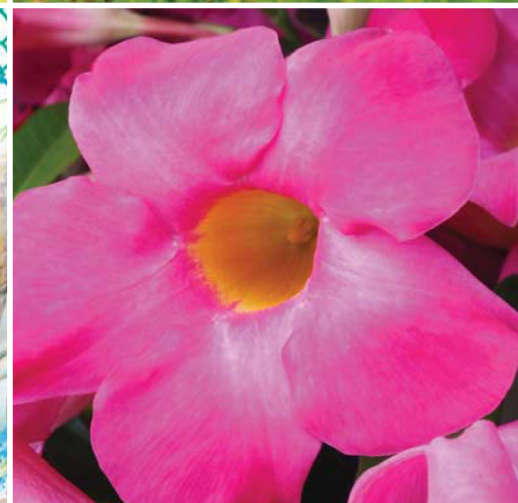


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Beyond the honeybee

Scientists, farmers, and beekeepers are paying attention. Now that the world's most infamous insecticides are turning up in lakes, you should too

By Jennifer Kingsley

If you've seen a cornfield in Canada, you've witnessed ground zero for the insecticides that are making global headlines. They are used on almost every corn and canola plant in this country, half of the soybeans, and over 140 different crops around the world. They're called "neonicotinoids" (ne-o-nic-o-tin-oids), and if you've heard of them, it's likely through their link to honeybee deaths. But honeybees are just one part of a complex ecosystem that also includes 800 species of native bees in Canada alone, countless other insects, and the birds and fish that rely on those insects for food.

Proving the effects of a chemical in the environment is notoriously difficult science; however, in the case of neonics, as most people call them, the clues are piling up. The trail leads well beyond farmers' fields, and it might even come to your lake. One thing is for sure: this story is bigger than the bees. >>



THE SLEUTHS

Christy Morrissey is an ecotoxicologist at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon—she studies the effects of toxic chemicals on living organisms. Morrissey and her students have found neonics in 90 per cent of prairie wetlands, called “prairie potholes”—before fields were even planted. Her research asks the next question: what is the effect of neonics on insect and bird populations? Michael Cavallaro, one of Morrissey’s Ph.D. students, studies insects—“bird food,” as the ornithologists in his lab like to say. Cavallaro sets bug traps to try to determine if neonics are affecting aquatic insects’ ability to successfully emerge. These insects are tiny, but their impact is not. “If you think in terms of calories for bug-eating wildlife, it’s tremendous,” he says. Morrissey studies tree swallows, which feed on those insects, to see if the birds’ decline might be linked, indirectly, back to neonics. That link, she admitted in a presentation to a group of beekeepers, is difficult to establish. As she went on to explain, “There are lots of pieces to the puzzle, but if you get enough pieces, essentially you will create a picture—a picture that tends to be believable.”

NEONICS 101

Neonicotinoids are a class of pesticide that is chemically similar to nicotine. They came onto the market in the mid-1990s and now represent a third of the global insecticides market. Sales of neonics reached more than \$2.6 billion U.S. in 2011 alone. Imidacloprid is the biggest seller; it’s the most popular insecticide in the world and the second-most commonly used agrochemical overall.

Neonics are toxic, but this should come as no surprise; they are designed to kill the sucking and biting insects that can harm crops, and they are very effective. They are also systemic pesticides, which means that once they’re applied to a plant, they will permeate every part of it from the leaves to the roots, including flowers, nectar, and pollen. Coating a seed with neonics—by far the most common application method—protects the plant from pests for its lifetime. This method has an upside—use of a small amount of a chemical that targets invertebrates and usually needs to be applied only once.

However, when it comes to neonics, it seems every upside has a flip side. Because the crops have pesticide in almost every cell, non-target insects, like the honeybee, are exposed. And applying the chemicals to the seeds is a preventative approach—like taking antibiotics just in case. So while there is a relatively small amount per plant, the pesticides are being used on an enormous scale.

Besides, Pierre Mineau, a co-author of the American Bird Conservancy’s 2013 report on the impact of neonicotinoids on birds, points out that the amount of pesticide is not always the important thing—it’s the effect that matters. Concentrations of neonics of a few parts per billion are enough to affect sensitive aquatic bugs like the mayflies that fish jump for and the midges that swallows scoop out of the air. As the report stated, “...neonicotinoid contamination levels in surface and groundwater in the U.S. and around the world are strikingly high, already beyond the threshold found to kill many aquatic invertebrates.”

NEONICS AT WORK

Neonics affect insects and other invertebrates by interfering with the nervous system. The neonics bind to a “gate” in the cell membranes that is usually open only when a nerve is firing. The neonicotinoid holds this gate open and never lets go. With a high enough dose, this causes death in short order.

At lower concentrations, the effects on invertebrates are less straightforward. The leading theory is that the insect in question, let’s say a honeybee, picks up a few neonic molecules at a time while foraging, and the effects of the chemicals build up in the bee’s system. Nigel Raine from the University of Guelph is Canada’s first research chair in pollinator conservation, a position created to study why so many pollinators are declining. He is concerned that neonics can have sublethal effects on navigation, communication, and even immune system response. His most recent study involved exposing bumblebees to different doses of neonics and then monitoring their foraging behaviour. Those bees exposed to the pesticides collected pollen from different flowers than those not exposed, and brought home less pollen. Their overall performance deteriorated over

time, which is unusual for bees as they are typically good learners whose foraging skills improve with practice.

In vertebrates, such as birds, fish, and people, the neonic’s bond is weaker and shorter lived, so the pesticide is more easily metabolized and removed; it does not build up over time. However, if they are ingested at high enough doses, neonics are poisonous for vertebrates too. For example, European scientists estimate that a farmland bird could die from eating fewer than five seeds coated with imidacloprid.

WHERE NEONICS GO

Because neonics are used primarily for crops, there is a tendency to think of their environmental impact as an agricultural issue, but the biological world is always on the move—insects fly from one field to another, birds eat insects, and so on. Also, the neonics themselves don’t always stay where they’re put. They degrade quickly when exposed to sunlight, but can otherwise persist for months or even years in soil. They are water soluble and easily washed into ponds, puddles, ditches, and lakes. Within 48 hours of a runoff event, such as a rainstorm, more than half of the pesticide may break down, but smaller concentrations can stick around.

While the debate about the effects of neonics continues, it’s becoming increasingly clear that they have an impact on watersheds. While they don’t accumulate up the food chain as we saw with DDT in the 1960s, and they don’t spread around the planet in the atmosphere like some persistent organic pollutants, neonics can move quickly away from a treated field and into surface water.

In a living system, the impact can be complex. Here’s one scenario: swallows rely on insects to hatch at a time that coincides with their breeding schedule. In a single hatching event, millions of insects can take flight, which means millions of units of energy for hunting birds. But if those insects don’t hatch, or don’t hatch at the right time, the birds are in big trouble. “Missed timing is as bad as not having those insects in the first place,” says Mineau.

Neonics, which can kill and/or disrupt important bird food like midges and mayflies, are a suspect in the mystery of

disappearing insectivores. But, again, there's more to it than that. In the last 40 years, birds that are aerial insectivores, such as swallows and swifts, have seen a 60 to 70 per cent decline. During this time, insect populations have decreased dramatically the world over, climate patterns have changed, agricultural intensification has altered field sizes, wetlands have disappeared and, yes, neonicotinoids have become the new favourite insecticides. Proving links among these factors though, especially outside a controlled lab environment, is so difficult that many scientists shy away from it.

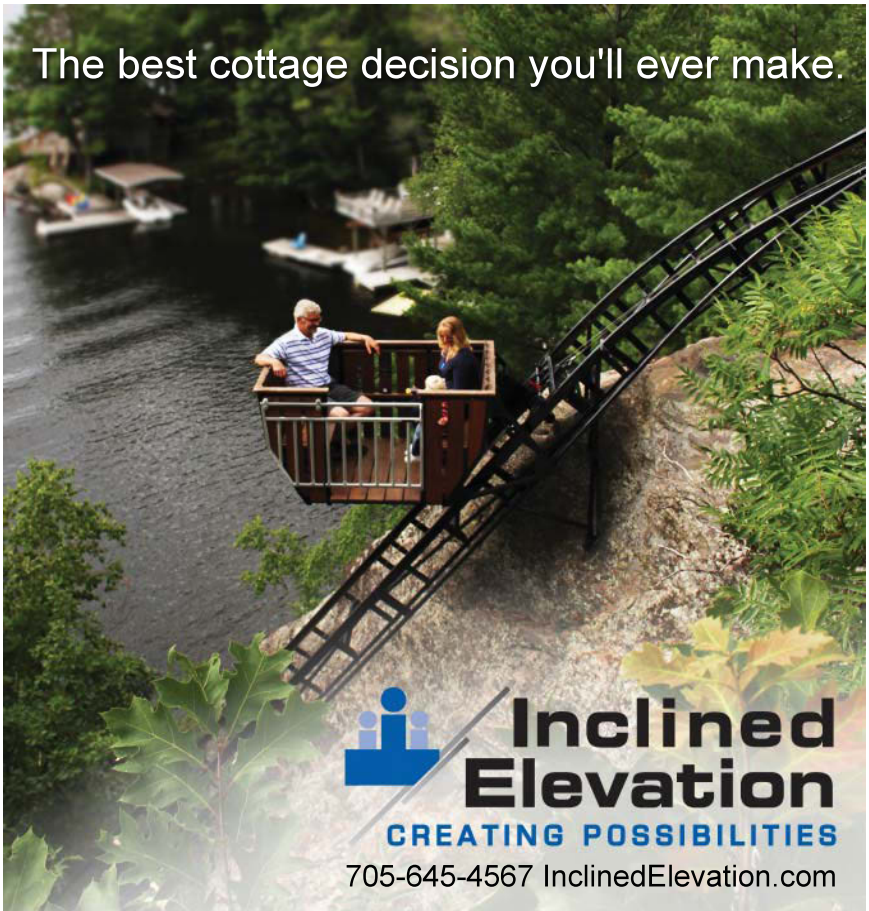
A RIPPLE EFFECT


In 2013, the European Union voted to restrict the use of three neonicotinoids for two years in an effort to protect honeybees and other pollinators. Last year, U.S. President Barack Obama created a Pollinator Health Task Force. In November, the Ontario government announced a plan—the first of its kind in Canada—to cut the acreage planted with neonic-treated seeds by 80 per cent in the next two years. Action on this issue, including a flood of scientific papers, a global task force on pesticide research, and statements from political leaders, is increasing. Citing a loss of profit due to neonicotinoids, last year the Ontario Beekeepers' Association launched a \$450 million class action lawsuit against the two largest manufacturers and their parent companies. These initiatives are increasing awareness about agricultural and household applications (neonics are used for flea collars and to treat some nursery plants), but a big-picture solution won't come without cooperation on regulation and pest management.

While honeybees have made the most headlines so far, other wildlife—insects, pollinators, and insectivores—might not be far behind. Regulatory change to support pollinators is starting to happen around the world. And while there may be a place for neonicotinoids in a farmer's tool kit, a growing number of experts agree they should never be as common as a cornfield. 🐝

Jennifer Kingsley is a writer, an audio producer, and a naturalist based in Ottawa.

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The list that cottagers dread more than any other: To Do. Fear no longer, says Zim, for he has found the answer

Behold the Covenant

By David Zimmer

Each spring, for more than a decade, I made a mental note that in the following year I would install my own version of Max's Easy Prime, a brilliant plumbing contraption conceived by Max Burns and detailed in his *Cottage Water Systems* book. True to its name, Max's Easy Prime makes priming a cottage water system, well, easy. But owing to the fact that I always made that mental note a whole year earlier, spring would find me running buckets of water from the river to the pump, hunting down airlocks in the intake line, and cursing the foot valve (which laughed right in my face).

In another part of cottage land, I could have downed tools right there and made my Easy Prime dreams a reality.

Unfortunately, while my closest plumbing store has the basics, some of the more esoteric parts for the device would require an hour's drive. I don't know how it works at your place, but there's a lot to get done on opening day at my camp, like taking off the shutters and cleaning up broken glass and ruffed grouse remains from the window that should have been shuttered. And given that there is a 60 per cent chance of precipitation on opening day—rain, icy rain, or rainy snow—my attention tends to focus on one thing: find more hose clamps and get the damn water running. Next year, I swear to myself, I will construct that Easy Prime if it is my last act on this earth. At least that was the plan.

The problem with promises, no matter how well intentioned, is that they have best-before dates, governed by the flaky mechanism of human memory. Yes, many promises are actively broken, but most simply expire because we forget all about them. Take the classic New Year's resolution, which we'll honour just as long as it takes for the wheezing and bloated cruise



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IN LIKE ZIM

{Continued from page 35}

ship of holiday excess to sink below the horizon. I think it's actually a form of amnesia: where am I? Why am I doing burpee sets and eating kale-infused soy puffs for lunch when patio season starts next week?

Setting out cottage commitments a year in advance is pointless. Instead, I think cottagers should swear off the usual empty promises and embrace a new concept in oath-making, a resolution revolution that I call a "Spring Covenant." Key to its effectiveness is timing. By "Spring" I do not mean any time close to the May Two-Four weekend; once that cluster-jam has been reached, it's too late to do any proper vow-making. No, a Spring Covenant should be sworn out sometime in March or April, when there is but the faintest suggestion of summer-to-come and nasty weather is still the norm. This is when cottage reality is close enough to be taken seriously, but far enough away to be the subject of fizzy daydreams. The second, most critical Covenant criterion is that it must be written down, but not on a scrap of easily lost paper. Instead, use a big chunk of drywall, a pine board, or The Cloud to document your Spring Covenant in detail, with room for comments and reflection. This is where we record the plumbing parts and all the bits and bobs that might be necessary on opening day. It's where we find the reminders to trickle charge the boat battery before backing down the ramp and to dig around in the garage for that special nozzle that blasts pine needles out of the eavestroughs. How will you remember to replace the ancient turmeric in the spice drawer if you don't write it down?

In a roundabout way, a Spring Covenant is a labour-saving device. In rose-tinted December, it's easy to make grand plans to dig a vegetable garden, but the cold light of April is an excellent reality magnifier. It makes you understand that, depending on the weather, you could be hoeing frozen ground or standing ankle deep in mud and blackflies. And if you have a written record attesting to the unreliability of springtime in Canada, any future garden fantasies can be confidently kiboshed.

A Covenant can help you perceive what's really important, like a set of noise-cancelling headphones for the cottage. Maybe after a hectic weekend last August, with children and in-laws, you and your spouse made a vow—you wouldn't be the first—to cut back on the steady rotation of weekend guests in favour of some "us" time. Maybe it was the beautiful sunset or the unoaked Chardonnay, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. Under the unblinking eyes of March, you'll see the truth. You'll see the dock and the swim raft and all those pollen-coated deck chairs. There are screens to wash and a sleep cabin full of squirrel poop to clean. "Us" time is great in theory, but it's those freeloading kids and in-laws who do all the heavy lifting around your place. Check the big block letters you wrote in last year's Covenant to remember it's part of the unwritten code: they put in the docks and dive into hypothermic water to rewire the submersible pump; you give them carte blanche all summer.

Besides helping you to prepare for the season to come, a Spring Covenant offers peace of mind, a clear conscience. Rather than forgetting important tasks for years on end (and feeling guilty) or wasting time with last summer's gin-fuelled fantasies (and feeling silly), the Covenant helps you get real work done, and then you can strike the rest of the stuff off the list, never to be spoken of again. My first Spring Covenant helped me to finally get my ducks in a row for a Max's Easy Prime installation. I think it would have gone better had I actually followed Max's easy-to-follow advice. Instead, I worked from the danger zone of memory and added some innovations of my own, including a different type of diaphragm pump we happened to have on hand that, unbeknownst to me, was defective. Priming the water system that year took longer than usual. I sweated more. I swore more. And the foot valve laughed right in my face again. That fall, my brother took the whole thing apart and threw the pieces in the shed. By the following spring, I was keen to do the job right, but a quick consultation with the previous year's Covenant saved me the trouble. It was right there, in my own handwriting: "Max's Easy Prime didn't work. Buy more hose clamps." 🐸

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C'mon over!

Colin & Justin are at it again

When we first dipped our wee Scottish toes into the lake of cottage ownership, we shared our getaway with another couple. It was a great experience, but we soon longed for a place all our own. A place where we could call the shots. So we began the cottage hunt again.

We were after a fixer-upper, maximum bang for our buck. When first we saw what would become our new cabin in the Haliburton Highlands, we laughed, thinking of some poor schmuck who'd buy the rundown ruin we nicknamed the "Slanty Shanty"—everything was listing like a sinking ship. It was the 33rd cottage that we'd seen and not the last. But, even after considering other places in better shape, we still couldn't forget the Slanty Shanty. God save us: was this shack of shock the shack we could make chic? Well, so we hoped. We moved in armed with sleeping bags, sandwiches, and champagne. And prepared for our role as Haliburton frontiersmen.

So, what's the skinny? Well, our lakeside hideaway is an A-frame cottage that boasted, as we found it, 850 sq. ft. of mouse-pooped and wasp-nested, *erm*, escapism. Still, what it lacked in contemporary charm, it more than made up for in position—near the water and facing southwest (for glorious sunsets). Surrounded by an abundance of verdant and statuesque trees, it was pretty much the classic Canadian cottage. In terms of build quality, decor, and ambience, however, the place positively sucked. So, we decided to rework each room, one by one, until the whole place was perfect. First up: creating space for guests. >>

PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL ORENSTEIN



Need space?
A narrow hallway feels larger when you use floor-to-ceiling sliding doors.

By Colin McAllister & Justin Ryan



BEFORE



**DIY
SMARTS**

Fall asleep at the dock

Turn dead space into live space

You wouldn't ask a Mexican to build you an igloo, so it makes perfect sense to enlist local help to make local plans go as smoothly as possible. Shopping at Haliburton Lumber, we happened upon Jodanne Aggett, an extraordinary talent who draws up and oversees the company's plans for new-build houses and renovations. We hit it off instantly: we appreciated her architectural drawing skills and the strong relationships she maintains with the local planning department.

The last owner used the rear of the building for a bedroom and a small laundry. For us it was a no-brainer—we wanted two guest bedrooms. We're social, simple as that, and we need space to accommodate visitors. So, first up, we removed the built-in closets from both spaces. Who needs so much storage in a weekend place? This change increased the floor space in the larger of the two rooms and provided extra square footage for the cramped adjacent kitchen. To free up the wall, we moved the electrical panels into the basement.

Next, we moved the interior bathroom wall eight inches into the hallway for a worthwhile difference. This small change allowed the enormous benefit of an expanded shower stall, ideal for the larger laddies who may just have overdone it on beers and barbecue or for anyone who appreciates having a bit more room. Our advice: to help you envision potential, ask your township's planning department if they have a copy of your cottage's floor plan from a previous permit application. If not, consider drawing up a new set to show what space is there and what's being wasted. Observing how rooms react with each other will help you to identify ways to make your living areas larger and ultimately more efficient. >>

Fact: if you free up the floor, you'll help create longer sightlines and the illusion of more space. With this logic in mind, we wall-mounted small crates as bedside tables and positioned homemade lamps above them. Hooks mounted on paddles provide more options for guests to stash their stuff.

When we took possession of the cottage, we found a short length of old dock abandoned on the shoreline.

Rather than consign it to the trash heap, we transformed it into our guest room headboard.

- Our first step was to power wash to remove grime from the wood before leaving it out in the sun to dry.

- Next, we measured the wall width and removed enough of the dock boards to cover this area.

- We nailed each board to a pair of 2x3s placed horizontally along the wall.

- We were short on space, so we hung

the lighting directly on the headboard. We got the exact lights we wanted by making them: cute steampunk lamps fashioned from several pieces of gas pipe fittings, with cord and plug attached.

- We chose not to varnish the wood and left everything silver: a beautiful tone only created by years outdoors under the warm Canadian sun. Bliss!
- Lastly, we added a narrow section of dock board across the top to cover the sawn ends and create a handy shelf.

Blipp it, build it! Watch Colin and Justin create their headboard and lamps





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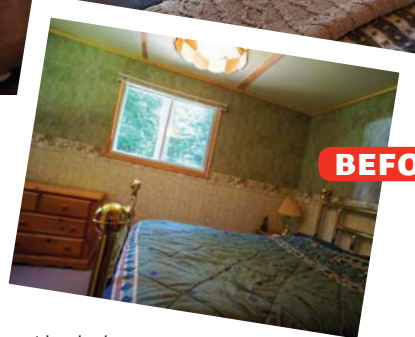
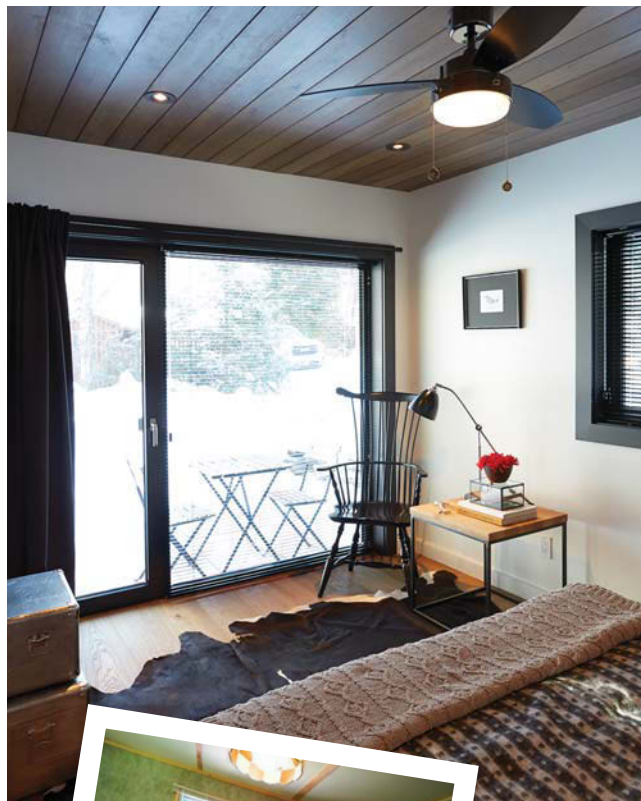
We employed a bit of city thinking to amplify space and create beautiful, functional rooms. Take a tip: remove all items you don't need, use, or like—a clean canvas paints the best picture—then use space-saving ideas to add more to less.

For example, replacing traditional swing doors with sliding barn-style portals maximizes space, adds design interest and, well, looks amazing. Go with a company that will custom-make and install your doors, and one that offers a huge range of finishings and accessories to personalize your project. Choosing custom will also allow you to create door sizes and shapes that just aren't available off the shelf. In our case, floor-to-ceiling doors add to the sense of vertical space in the narrow hallway.

Further, by using doors that slide along the wall, we're able to devote more real estate to each bedroom (no swinging doors to accommodate), and the hallway boasts some barnboard buzz that contrasts beautifully with the smooth white walls.

Aim as far as the eye can see

We were frustrated by the limited views from the small bedroom windows, so we held our breath and removed the rear wall. Our contractor conducted this task with minimal upheaval, in preparation for custom floor-to-almost-ceiling glass walls. The resultant feel of sleeping in the forest adds to the escapist mood, while the increased light and sightlines make the rooms seem endless. Both windows boast tilt-and-turn panels for ventilation, and both can be opened, if required, like doors: this function affords egress onto a small outdoor deck, effectively blurring lines between indoors and out and maxing up the perceived space.



BEFORE

Choose wide-plank flooring, laid running with the longest axis of the room, to help elongate the area. Selecting wide planks for small rooms makes the proportions seem more generous, thanks to fewer lines on the floor. In this guest bedroom, we used the same trick on the ceiling to great effect.

Play with scale

In the smaller of the two bedrooms, we scaled down by specifying a double bed. This provides just enough sleep space for a cozy couple or sprawling room for singles. Underbed drawers let overnight guests tuck away their belongings. To add whimsy and even more storage, we attached hooks to an old paddle, which we mounted on the wall. Okay, so there's no wardrobe but, come on: do cottage guests really need one? 🛏

Season two of *Cabin Pressure* premieres on Sunday, March 22, at 9 p.m. on the Cottage Life channel. Also, see the boys in person at the Cottage Life Show, March 28.

{Source Guide, page 110}

“A bull market is a great time to lose money.”

Alex von Schroeter, CFA

Partner and Portfolio Manager,
Cumberland Private Wealth Management Inc.

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This year, the market is all about
boomerang boomers, equity tappers,
province hoppers, and grandchild catchers.
Buyer or seller, see where you fit in...

What's the deal?

While everyone has

an opinion about what's going on with Canada's housing market—bubble, no bubble, overheated in some regions and sluggish in others—getting a read on cottage-country real estate can be a bit tougher: the voices aren't quite as loud, and the news coverage is spotty at best. We set out to scan the market from coast to coast to see what's happening in recreational real estate, what you can expect in 2015, and how to make what's going on work in your favour.

Realtors from B.C. to Newfoundland report that their two most common types of buyers are young families with children tapping into their home equity to buy cottages and near or recent retirees who are looking to make a cottage-country property their primary residence. In both cases, kids come into play. "I see grandparents getting places here as grandchild catchers," says Ann Chiasson, a broker-owner of Re/Max Sea to Sky Real Estate in Whistler, B.C. In contrast, in the areas of the country that attracted the first wave of retiring boomer buyers, such as Ontario's Kawarthas, those cottage

owners, now more elderly, are selling and heading back to town to be closer to services and family. "We have a lot of retirees up here, but they're the ones selling, not buying," says Linda Duncan, a sales representative with Royal LePage Kawartha Lakes Realty. Whether you're in the young-family demographic, approaching retirement, or you're simply ready to get into the market, here are the factors influencing what you'll find, how much it will cost—and how you could score a better buy. >>

By Kim Pittaway Illustration Katy Lemay



Hot home market = hot cottage market

Some call it “residential spillover.”

Those lucky enough to own a home in a hot residential market may just call it “tapping into my equity.” What it means in cottage country is that buyers with homes in strong residential markets—the strongest markets in Canada, according to a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers report on real estate trends in 2015, include Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Vancouver, Saskatoon, and Ottawa—are pushing up the prices in nearby accessible cottage markets. But the flip side of this trend is that buyers may find bargains in cottage areas closer to weaker housing markets, such as Winnipeg, Montreal, and Halifax. And what realtors are seeing on the ground seems to bear that out, with high levels of cottage inventory noted in Manitoba, parts of Quebec, and Nova Scotia, with more cottages on the market meaning more competitive pricing overall.

Make it work for you Opt to province-hop. Even with the higher travel costs, it may make sense to buy a cheaper place in another province, especially if your schedule allows you to visit for longer periods of cottage time, as opposed to shorter stays and weekend use.



BARGAIN-HUNTING?

The country's least expensive cottage regions are New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Sudbury and St. Joseph Island in Ontario, with average costs for land-access waterfront properties ranging from \$120,000 to \$190,000.

WON THE LOTTERY?

While every cottage region has its top-dollar properties, the biggest price tags are still likeliest in three regions: Muskoka and the Kawarthas in Ontario, and the Gulf Islands in B.C.

TOP DOLLAR?

While it's difficult to say with certainty which cottage property is Canada's priciest, a 7,000 sq. ft. cottage overlooking Lake Rosseau in Ontario's Muskoka region sold for

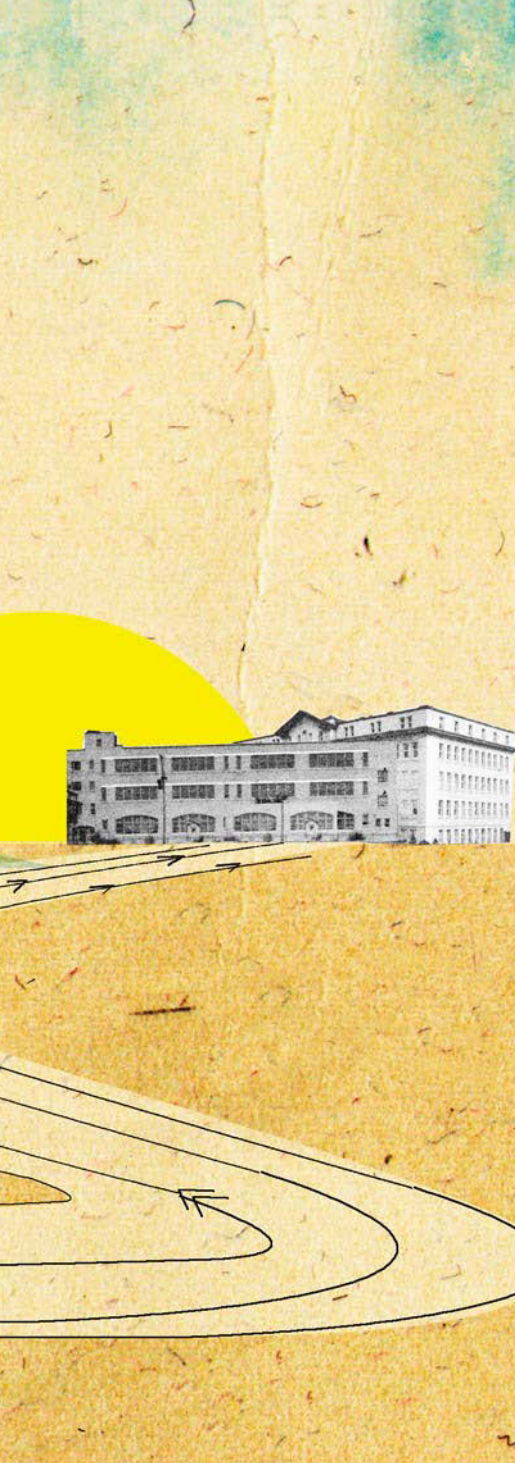
\$7.4 million last year. It's the most expensive recreational home sold in the province in six years. The property features a three-slip boathouse and a nanny suite. Properties on offer at press time that could top that:

780-acre James Island in B.C., the second-largest privately owned island in the Gulf Islands archipelago, is listed for \$75 million. The island includes a 5,000 sq. ft. owners' residence, six guest cottages, private docks, an airstrip, and a manager's residence.

11-acre Bass Island in Muskoka, priced at \$11.8 million, features 11,000 sq. ft. of living space, including a two-bedroom guesthouse and a 1,200 sq. ft. spa.

5-acre Reef Island on Lake Joseph in Muskoka, priced at \$8.9 million, features a six-bedroom cottage and a boathouse.





THE NEXT HOT SPOTS?

PricewaterhouseCoopers' Emerging Trends in Real Estate: Canada and United States 2015 points to Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver as the best bets for increases in housing real estate values. Higher residential values tend to lead

homeowners to tap into their rising equity to fund recreational property purchases, so cottages within commuting distance of those three centres could see upticks in prices over the next few years. (Caveat: the PwC report came out in October 2014.)

Province-hopping

When it comes to buying out of province, realtors are noticing the trend. "I deal with a lot of people who are either selling their big home in Alberta or their family farm in Ontario, and are looking to buy here and still have a nest egg to retire on," says Gabe Routhier of Tradewinds Realty in Hubbards, N.S. Some are buying traditional homes to use as recreational properties—"Out here, really every property can be used as a recreational property, because you're near the ocean," he says—while others are purchasing actual cottages. But it's not just the East Coast that has benefited from high house values in other parts of the country: last year, British Columbia was seeing similar buying trends with cottage hunters flush from Alberta's then-booming economy. "Last summer, we had tons of Albertans driving around," says Al Christopherson of Century 21 Lakeside Realty, North Shuswap branch. Some expected property prices to be unrealistically low and made what he calls "stinky, low-ball offers," including a \$140,000 offer on a \$199,900 log-barn conversion property and an \$8,000 offer on a lot listed at \$14,500. With the drop in oil prices, though, Christopherson says he's seeing fewer Albertans hunting in the B.C. market. Still, B.C. buyers appear to have taken up the slack, so sales are still up overall.

Make it work for you *If you are province-hopping, you may want to keep your home address under your hat so that sellers don't assume that you've got bags of out-of-province loot in the trunk of your car. As well, don't assume that every property is a bargain just because it would be more expensive closer to home: take the time to research areas and prices so that your offer is in line with local property values.*

The cottage office

With cottage commutes getting uglier in many parts of the country, buyers are looking for recreational properties that have the amenities for working from the deck or dock. Just a few years ago, cottage Internet access was often dodgy (though residents in rural Nova Scotia and some other parts of the country will tell you it still is), and cellphone reception could be intermittent. Today, though, the extension of broadband service into rural communities has improved access, so that working from the cottage is more feasible than ever. That access means cottagers can dodge the weekend traffic with a day or two of telecommuting—and it also means that good cell and Internet access can be a selling feature.

Make it work for you *One cottager's unacceptable isolation may be another's nirvana: if working from the cottage isn't on your radar, you'll have less competition and may get a bargain in an area that doesn't have good broadband coverage.*

Year round, all the way

While four-season properties have long been desirable in winter recreation areas—such as Ontario's Collingwood and British Columbia's Whistler—four-season use now tips well outside traditional ski areas. "Everyone wants their place to be usable year round," says John Jarvis, a broker and an owner of Re/Max North Country Realty in Huntsville, Ont. "Nearly one hundred per cent of my buyers are looking for four-season places." Partly, Jarvis says, it's because buyers want a property that they can enjoy year round, but he adds that financing options are more flexible for those purchasing a year-round recreational property than for those buying a three-season cottage. "The banks seem to be more competitive with offering funding for second homes," he says. That desire for four-season use stretches across the country, and it's a factor in markets in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Make it work for you *Consider three-season properties with upgrade potential if you need four-season use, or simply go three-season if winter use isn't on your must-have list. >>*

A little help from some friends...or family

Royal LePage broker-manager David Kingshott in Parry Sound, Ont., says that it isn't uncommon in his region for friends and family to purchase property together. It's a trend that agents in Alberta's Gleniffer Lake and Pine Lake areas and B.C.'s East Kootenay area—regions with relatively high cottage prices—also cite. Sharing tends to be more likely in higher-priced areas where splitting the costs may be the only way into the market for some families. Still, even in those markets, shared purchases don't always stay shared. "While we used to see families or friends sharing, in almost every case one member of the group would eventually end up buying out the other shares," says Whistler realtor Ann Chiasson. While joint purchases were a factor in the Okanagan in B.C. in the past, softening prices linked to the economic downturn have made properties there more affordable and lessened the likelihood of sharing. In more economical regions, multi-party buying is even less common. "I have quite a few properties that would be perfect for that sort of thing, but people seem to hesitate to buy in groups," says Tradewinds' Routhier in Nova Scotia. "When we do have a deal involving multiple parties, it's usually something like a son buying a place and letting extended family use it or moving an elderly parent into a recreational property. But it doesn't happen often."

Make it work for you A shared purchase can put more properties within your reach—but buying together can be challenging. Check out "How to Draft a Sharing Agreement" online at cottage-life.com for advice on successful co-ownership.

Better roads = new cottage options

With an increased emphasis on ease of getting to the cottage, it should be no surprise that highway improvements can play a role in boosting cottage prices. For instance, three Ontario projects have raised interest in cottage areas: the opening of the Hwy. 404 extension near Keswick and Georgina, on the southern shore of Lake Simcoe; the imminent expansion of Hwy. 407 east of Pickering, giving better access to the East

Kawartha region; and the expansion of Hwy. 416 in the Ottawa region.

Make it work for you Take a look at quieter areas just beyond the reach of highway improvements, suggests Huntsville's John Jarvis. "If you're looking in Huntsville with a budget of \$400,000, you can't afford anything in the main area, but if you head east, west, or north of the busiest areas, the prices go down quite a bit," he says. "Take a \$650,000 cottage in Huntsville. If you go toward Haliburton, a similar cottage with the same shoreline and lake size may only cost \$450,000. You get more value for your dollar and your taxes will be less."

Are the Americans coming (back)?

For the last six or seven years, a higher Canadian dollar and a tougher U.S. economy meant that American buyers weren't much of a factor in cottage real estate. With our dollar dipping, though, analysts are suggesting that American buyers are starting to look north again—and Canadian buyers who may have looked south will likely stick closer to home, where their dollar will go further. These two trends are likely to drive up interest in areas such as B.C. and the Maritimes. Ann Chiasson, in Whistler, has already noticed a change. "The Americans are starting to come back now," she says. "The dollar has dropped and they can save 10 to 15 per cent."

Meanwhile, some agents in Nova Scotia say they're not seeing that yet. "We're not getting the American buyers we used to," says Gabe Routhier. "We're now seeing buyers who are mainly from within Canada, plus we're getting a lot of interest from Germany."

Make it work for you If you're looking in an area that's an easy drive from the U.S. or has a history of American cottage ties, getting into the market sooner rather than later—before there's more competition for properties—makes sense, and you may see your property value pop up if and when those foreign buyers return.

Reno? No thanks

"In the last boom, in 2005-06, we saw a lot of buyers willing to buy a place and then do a big renovation on it, but we're not seeing that much now," says Richard Greaves, a broker-owner with Re/Max Alpine Realty in Canmore, Alta. "People now prefer to buy something that is

already done." Realtors in Ontario's Bruce Peninsula and the Vernon area of B.C. are also seeing a shift to a desire for fully renovated properties that require no major work. Still, realtors in some areas, such as Saskatchewan's Christopher Lake and Candle Lake area, report an interest in vacant lots, especially on the part of younger buyers. Improvements in prefabricated cottage kits may be driving interest in lots in some areas, says Huntsville's Jarvis. "Prefabs were really popular about 30 years ago, and they're becoming popular again, due to the dramatically increased quality," he says. And off-the-grid options? Realtors say they're seeing little if any interest, and little priority on green options as well. "The focus is on full service, Wi-Fi, Internet, heat, paved road," says Century 21's Christopherson in Scotch Creek, B.C. "They want the cottage life, but they don't want to be too country: no 4x4 roads, no off the grid, none of that silliness as they see it."

Make it work for you With so much focus on ready-to-move-in cottages with full service and paved roads, you may find bargains by going to a more remote area, looking for properties down gravel roads or those with more rustic appeal. If your cottage life dream is off grid, even better: the competition for such properties and lots is likely to be low—and you might have good resale value in the future, as people now in their 20s and 30s start buying properties. "I think as younger buyers start to come into some money, we'll see greener options become a larger part of the market," says Nova Scotia's Routhier.

Still, while arming yourself with the knowledge on the latest trends can open your eyes to options you hadn't considered, for most buyers, cottages end up being a purchase motivated more by heart than by head. Says Royal LePage's Duncan in Ontario's Kawartha Lakes area: "Most buyers just want to get up by a lake and get a cottage." 🐾

Kim Pittaway teaches journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax.

For more on buying and selling, watch the Saturday evening block of real estate shows on the Cottage Life channel and drop by the Scotiabank Cottage Real Estate Centre at the Spring Cottage Life Show, March 27–29.

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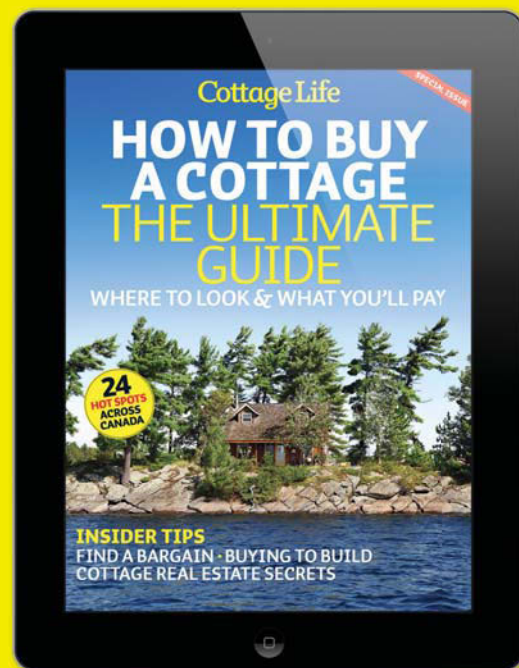
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THIS COTTAGE IS

He wanted rustic, she wanted modern. They compromised to build a log cabin, reimagined

SUPER COOL

By Vanessa Farquharson Photography Alexi Hobbs





IN THE MIDDLE

of a particularly frigid night during the winter of 2009, Pauline Pariser awoke to dripping on her forehead. She knew immediately what it was: the ceiling of the yurt in which she and her husband, Howie Abrams, were sleeping had formed a sheet of condensation, and the chilled droplets had succumbed to gravity. When the couple erected a yurt on their property two years earlier, it was an upgrade from a tent—at first, it seemed indulgent to have any kind of built structure. “But I had just turned 60,” Pariser recalls, “and the water was dripping on our heads and getting on our sleeping bags, and I thought, Okay, we’re too old for this, it’s time to build a cottage.”

The Toronto-based physicians found their 37-acre lot in January of 2006. In an area known locally as “Wild Muskoka,” the property was not what you would expect to find in this popular region of cottage country: a large swath of land hidden deep in the woods, with a south-facing view over a quiet, motor-restricted lake and 1,300 feet of undeveloped shoreline. Long-time canoe trippers, Pariser and Abrams were happy living simply and were in no rush to build. They camped for a while before they upgraded to the yurt, which was complete with a woodstove that let them enjoy winter visits to the lake. “Keeping it small works for us,” says Abrams. “We really believe in having just enough.” {Continued on page 60}

Pauline Pariser and Howie Abrams prepare dinner at the large kitchen island. The island was a must-have for Pariser, who loves to chat with guests while preparing meals. But first on the Toronto couple’s wish list was a traditional feeling within their thoroughly modern cottage. Architects Meg Graham and Andre D’Elia of Superkül used cedar and pine to execute this contrasting vision. The cottage’s exterior features cedar shakes—traditional—with flat cedar boards flanking

the entrance (previous pages). The most strikingly modern element of the exterior is the “wood screen” that wraps around three sides of the screened porch. It’s made from cedar slats spaced just a few inches apart, a design that allows air and light through while maintaining a sense of cozy intimacy. It also forces those inside to focus their attention through the opening (opposite), towards the lake.

THE CABIN'S KEY



Bright green Navy chairs from Design Within Reach add a punch of colour to the main living space's neutral palette. Made from recycled Coke bottles, the chairs were a feel-good purchase, as was the dining table, constructed from salvaged barnboard. The cottage's three bedrooms are off a hallway a few steps from the kitchen (opposite).



INGREDIENT IS WOOD



When the architects from Superkül first visited the property, they spotted an overturned boat, which eventually inspired the uniquely shaped sloping roof of the cottage. The shape suits the structure's modern sensibility, a style that Pariser chose in part to house her impressive art collection, including a wire sculpture called *Peter The Diver* (below) by the German artist Rainer Lagemann and *Sanctuary*, a globe fashioned out of twisted, wrought-iron branches that sits at the entrance (p. 53), by Camilla Geary-Martin. It's unusual to see such an extensive modern art collection in a cottage, but the pieces help to bring the open

spaces together and also personalize an otherwise minimalist interior. Like most other cottagers, Pariser and Abrams spend much of their time outside. They are avid kayakers, cyclists, and sailors. And, of course, swimmers. Pariser swims at least twice a day, often for 45-minute stretches. The first dip is usually as soon as she wakes, "even if it's 71 degrees outside," says Abrams. To warm up, they rely on their high-efficiency fireplace from Stûv (below), which vents exhaust air underneath the concrete floor to supplement the cabin's heating system.







The cottage, named Stealth Cabin, won the Ontario Association of Architects Design Excellence Award in 2014, “for the architects’ ability to create a project with a small footprint and a recognizable character. The embrace of the context of the cabin within the trees, high above a lake, speaks to the memory of the cottage experience.” The entire structure was designed specifically to suit Pariser and Abrams’ lifestyle. “By thinking so much about the site,” says Pariser, “we were

able to get an idea of the vantage point we wanted—there’s a rise in the land that offers a better view of the water, for instance—and we got a sense of our natural access points too, like the easiest way down to the lake or, when we come in from cross-country skiing, where we naturally tend to undress. We figured out where the sun sets, so that we could always see it from the dining room while we ate dinner.”

But when the yurt gave in to Wild Muskoka, Pariser and Abrams agreed that it was time for something permanent. And that’s where the agreement ended. “I pictured a traditional log cabin,” says Abrams. “Not quite a dirt floor, but close. That’s what I always imagined a cottage to be.” As for Pariser? “A log cabin was the furthest thing from what I wanted.”

He wanted rustic, she wanted modern. Clearly, it was time to call in a specialist. Enter Superkül. Pariser had met Meg Graham and Andre D’Elia, the principal architects at the firm, years earlier and had admired their work ever since. Superkül is known for creating sleek, modern structures that are at once stunning and humble—its buildings are designed to blend into the surrounding nature, rather than stick out from it, and there is always an overarching focus on durability and sustainability. Abrams was slightly nervous when it came to signing on with Superkül (there were no log cabins in its portfolio) but was reassured by Graham’s and D’Elia’s low-key, down-to-earth personalities. “Extremely talented but very flexible” was how friends had described the pair, which sounded promising. He was further reassured when, in 2009, he and his wife invited the architects to visit the property to offer preliminary feedback. Rain poured down, but Graham and D’Elia happily paddled across the lake to examine neighbouring properties and stayed for dinner in a damp kitchen tent, ducking out every now and then to take notes on the landscape’s {Continued on page 111}



THEY LOVED THE VIEWS

Are the Brojects brothers the most
genius cottage putterers ever?

WHACKED OUT



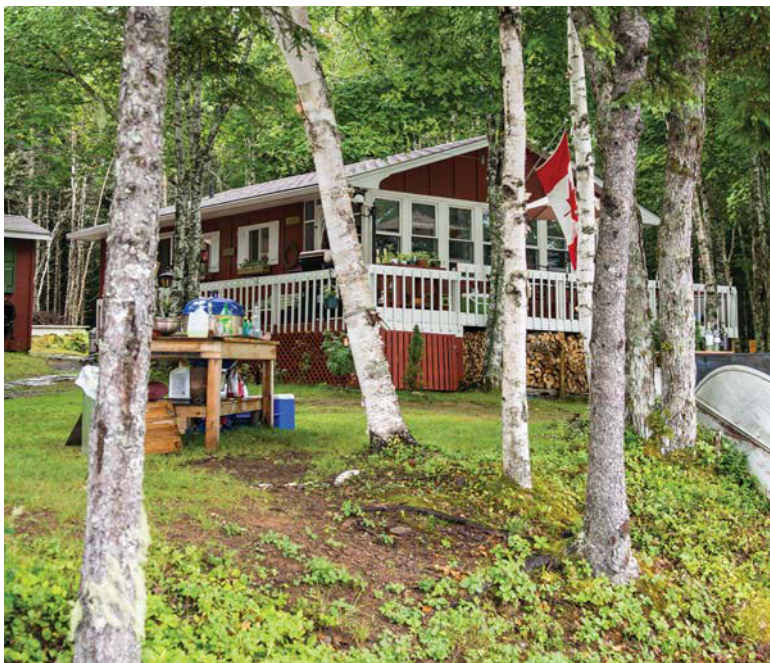


By Christy Ann Conlin Photography Aaron McKenzie Fraser

IT'S A running joke that everything we make has to float," Kevin Buckles says, sitting across from his brother, Andrew, on the deck at their family cottage, about two and a half hours inland from Halifax. He's not exaggerating. This year, the brothers are envisioning a floating golf course, a floating sauna (which would ideally float in summer and sit on the ice in winter, for year-round relaxation), and the tour de force, a floating bowling alley dock. They had talked about making a bowling alley on land, but they also wanted a bigger dock. "Then the two things naturally married themselves together," Andrew says. "This is what the show's really about, and how we regard the cottage experience. At other people's cottages, things are more orderly. They put money into building a dock, and they don't want it to be a bowling alley. That's not what we do."

What they *do* do these days is star in the breakout hit TV show *Brojects*. (To its burgeoning audience, the brothers are usually known as "the guys from *Brojects*.") The show, which debuted on the Cottage Life channel last year, is a reality TV enterprise, where the boys get together at the cottage to work on over-the-top DIY projects with their buddy Brian Walker and other assorted friends and family. The company comes naturally. The brothers grew up in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with their sister, Shannon. Andrew is now based in Victoria, where he lives with his wife, Ashley Kruse, and their daughters, Leoni, 6, and Halea, 2. Kevin has stayed closer to home, living in Halifax with his wife, Christie, and their five-year-old daughter, Evelyn. But *Brojects* is shot exclusively at the Buckles family cottage, which is where the whole family has gathered before the place is caught up in the madness of filming season two.

The cottage is owned by their parents, Brian and Glenda Buckles, who graciously let Andrew and Kevin take over the place for a large chunk of the summer season. Shannon also lives in Halifax with her wife, Annie Barbour, and both use the cottage frequently. For Kevin and Andrew,



ABOUT ANDREW: “HE’LL TAKE A SHELVING UNIT AND MOUNT IT ON THE CEILING”

Glenda and Brian Buckles (opposite, top) lend their Nova Scotia cottage to their sons to use as the home base for the Projects TV show. One of Andrew and Kevin's best projects is the Ultimate Swim Raft (on p. 62), featuring a hammock, an in-floor cooler, solar lamps, and a custom anchoring system, hidden beneath the decking.

Blipp to watch Kevin and Andrew build their raft, step by step







No matter what the project, the brothers build it with one thing top of mind: fun. The Shot Ski (opposite), for example, is the definitive party addition and features five shot glasses affixed to an old downhill ski. The Ultimate Pizza Oven (left) and the Amphibious Hot Tub (bottom) were also featured on *Projects*.



the property is a combination of family retreat, man cave, and Frankensteinian laboratory, where their ideas—sometimes quirky, sometimes bizarre—can percolate. These aren't experts we're talking about here, just two guys with wild ideas and an unbelievably accommodating family. "The things we build have to have a weird panache to make them interesting," Andrew says. For "interesting," read "funny." The Buckles brothers have that classic Nova Scotian understated humour, which for Andrew defines the Maritimes, where "you don't take yourself too seriously or life too seriously." Considering the surprising success of the show, it seems this humour has appeal right across the country. The guys are a surreal combination of poetry and slapstick, which is what's so compelling about them; dudes with beers watch their show and so do people with hand-blown wine glasses.



The cottage is just as surprising. In one sense, it's the quintessential Canadian cottage, built 30 years ago on five acres of land with 1,700 feet of waterfront. But this isn't the seaside Nova Scotia you see on postcards, the source of the licence plate motto Canada's Ocean Playground. This waterfront is Nova Scotia's best-kept secret—the product of the multitude of freshwater lakes that dot the inland, an entirely different sort of playground.

The Buckles place is on a small lake about half an hour outside of Antigonish. The main building is rustic and comfortable. There's also an old boathouse that has been converted into a bunkie with a lakeside porch; the brothers commandeered the guest house proper a

ABOUT KEVIN: “WHEN ANDREW GOES TO THAT OTHER PLACE AND NEEDS TO BE REELED IN, KEVIN DOES THAT”

Between them, Kevin and Andrew have three kids (including Andrew's six-year-old, Leoni, opposite), so it makes sense that their projects are infused with such whimsy; their canoe launcher project doubles as a teeter-totter. The bros are bicoastal these days, but remain Maritimers at heart, with the souvenir vanity plates to prove it.



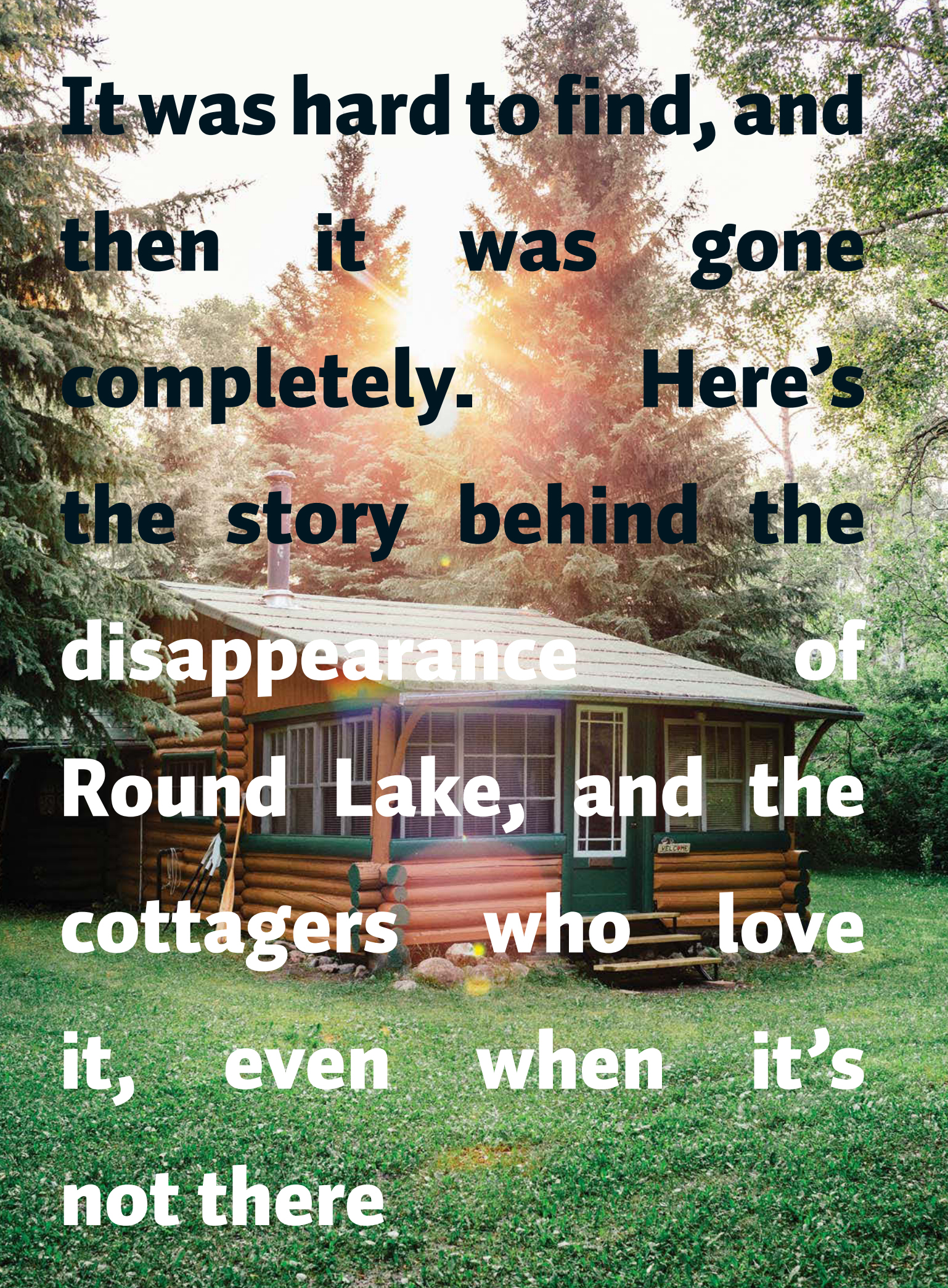
while ago and turned it into a supply shed and storage area. The property is surrounded by thick forest and Crown land; even with exact instructions, it's easy to take a wrong turn and end up deep down a logging road in bear and coyote country. Your GPS and cellphone probably won't work here.

But flights of extreme fancy will. Andrew calls the show a "kind of building playground," but this is not your average beautifying-the-boathouse cottage program. When the *Brojects* bros built a raft for the lake, for instance, they didn't just make a raft; they added a cedar pergola, a trap-door cooler, benches, and a solar-powered motor so they can cruise to the centre of the lake for prime swimming, or tie up shoreside. (Andrew calls it "a living room you can take out on the water.") Then, of course, there's the Ultimate Pizza Oven, the Ultimate Outdoor Shower, the Ultimate Playground, and the Ultimate Firepit. Any zany, cottage-perfect project you've imagined, chances are these guys are building it.


Brojects isn't the first experience the Buckles brothers have had with filming their lives for the entertainment of others. The first experience was a documentary ("mockumentary" in their words) called, no joke, *Air Guitar in Oulu*. The film, which they can't mention without starting to giggle, is a retelling of Andrew's real-life adventure attending the 2002 Air Guitar World Championships in Oulu, Finland, where he tied for second place. The brothers made the film with their high school friend Kent Sobey and his company, Farmhouse Productions. Watching it, you can see the origins of their working relationship—Andrew providing outlandish ideas and dreams, and Kevin providing practicality and brotherly mocking. As Christie, Kevin's wife, says, "Kevin is the practical brother and Andrew is the fantastical. Andrew goes to that 'other' place and needs to be reeled in. Kevin does the reeling."

A few years after *Air Guitar in Oulu*, Kevin and Christie bought a home in Halifax, and Andrew and Ashley, who had both been {Continued on page 106}





**It was hard to find, and
then it was gone
completely. Here's
the story behind the
disappearance of
Round Lake, and the
cottagers who love
it, even when it's
not there**

A taxidermied deer head with large, multi-tined antlers is mounted on a dark wooden plaque against a light-colored wooden wall. The deer's fur is greyish-brown, and its eyes are dark and glassy. The background shows a rustic interior with wooden paneling and other mounted items.

THE LAKE THAT WOULDN'T BE

By Jim Sutherland Photography Grant Harder





When we lived in Saskatoon

Barb McCracken reads in the 1918 cottage that she shares with her two sisters and their families (and the unfortunate ungulate on p. 71). The nearby log cabin (p. 70) was owned by someone outside the family for over two decades, until her father bought it back, in 1972. Above, Grant Gustafson stands by his cabin.

in the 1980s, my wife, Jessie, and I kept hearing tales of a lake lost in time, where picture-perfect cabins and charm-drenched cottages slumbered among the pines, their clocks stuck at 1926. A few people claimed to have seen this place, but no one could give us directions or even reasonable coordinates. They had a name—Round Lake—but maps showed only one body of water of that description, and it was in the south, not up north in the forest belt, where these people said they had been. We found ourselves wondering if these witnesses were completely reliable. Gosh, were mushrooms involved? A blindfolded ride in the back of a panel van?

Then one day: revelation. A new acquaintance not only knew of the lake but owned a cottage there and could give us directions. She was a writer and her husband a geography professor, and as a writer myself, I knew that if there is

anyone you can trust, it's a geographer. The lake, this couple assured us, really did exist, even if, only a few years before, it didn't—but more on that later. So into our commodious Renault we packed two tots and a rummage sale of camping gear, and we set out for the north woods.

The woods proved to be large and Round Lake small, but by following a rough trail that turned off a gravel road that wound mostly north from the barely extant village of Crutwell, we did eventually home in on it. And, what do you know, the lakeside that we finally found and walked along proved to be every bit the intriguing curiosity we'd heard about and, in fact, for us, a lot more.

Now, it's almost three decades later, and here I am back at Round Lake, inside one of those charm-drenched cottages, chatting with sisters Lorie Kellsey and Barb McCracken, who might have been sitting at this very table back on the fateful day of my first visit. I say "fateful" because Jessie and I decided that we had to have a cabin at Round Lake, especially after learning that several of the 45 or so cottages there were for sale and priced to move in the mid four figures, a range not generally associated with real estate even then. But hardly had we purchased one when we relocated to Vancouver, our time at Round Lake amounting to barely two summers.

Kellsey, McCracken, and a third sister have been spending their summers since the mid-1960s at Round Lake with their parents, the Dafoes, at the family cottage. Kellsey and her husband, Brian, maintain the place and make the six-hour drive here from Edmonton for three or four week-long stretches every summer. Often they bring along other family members, including a grandson who represents the sixth generation summering here. Back in the 1960s, the Dafoe girls were little themselves, but they were big enough to notice that the lake was almost completely deserted. "In a week there might be one other car," says Kellsey. "We'd run out to the road to see it."

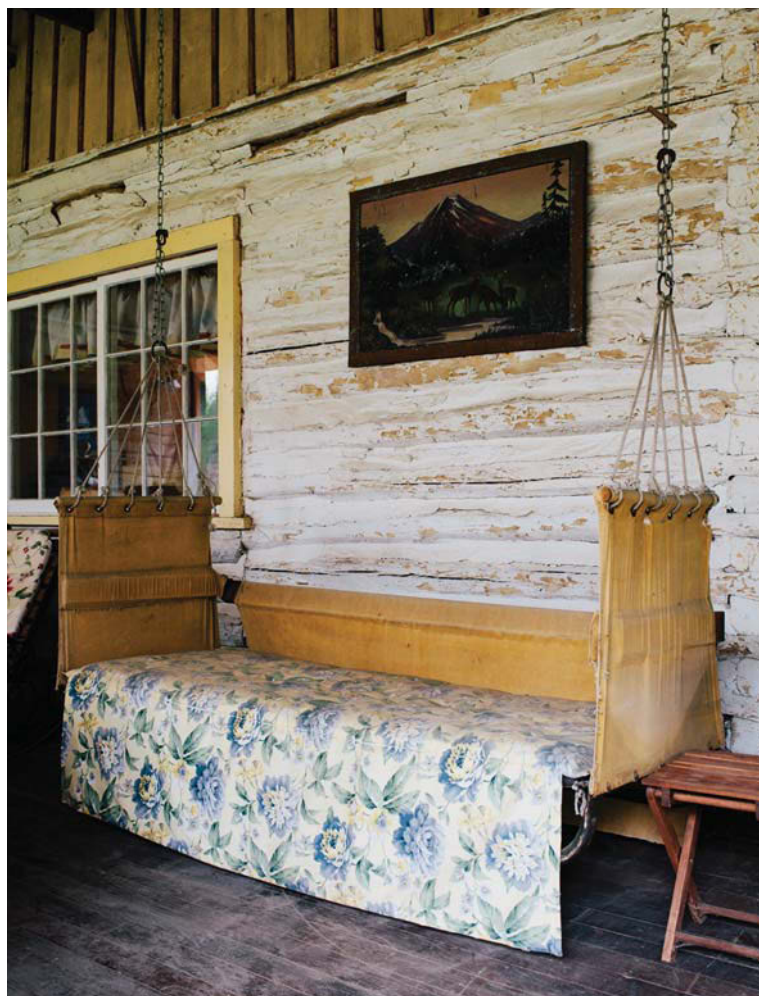
There are two cottages on the property, and we are sitting in the larger one, which the sisters' great-grandfather built in



1918. The other, a few metres away, he added in 1938 as overflow accommodation, constructing it from local spruce logs using axe and bucksaw. Kellsey, who's a graphic artist and attuned to such things, describes the decor as "Round Lakish." There is an impressive variety of carefully preserved fish and mammals on the varnished wood walls, and paintings and photographs of animals too, along with lots of other stuff that has accumulated over the decades and that Kellsey describes as being just *there*. To those who aren't familiar with the Lakish school, I'd suggest that the look is common to shorelines all over the continent, and that in its purest form it might have had an influence on the set design for *Twin Peaks*.

Let's imagine, though, that the theme from another old show—*The Twilight Zone*—is playing while Kellsey and McCracken describe sparkling Round Lake as it was back in the 1960s and 1970s. "If we wanted to go swimming, we'd walk a mile or so to the river," says McCracken, who also lives in Edmonton, where she's a contractor in the oil patch. "Yeah, there wasn't a lot of water in the lake," explains Kellsey. Which sheds some light on how Round Lake lost its lustre. Water: so important in a lake.

The lake's disappearing act began in the 1930s, and by the '60s it had shrunk to a fraction of its original size. Kellsey



remembers walking down to the water through what seemed like miles of grassy beach, spotted with mucky patches. Trees had started to invade too, which would provoke mixed emotions after the water returned. On one hand, those newly flooded trees would all die and have to be laboriously pulled out. On the other, she says with a laugh, "They were great for hanging your towels."

Many Round Lakers more or less abandoned their places during those years. Not the Dafoes. The forest and the peace and quiet were lures, and the kids found things to play at. And the lake was still there, even if distant and diminished. The lake is stocked with pike and perch, and their family had a canoe and a row-boat. "We fished a lot," she says.

Then, late in the 1970s, and for no discernible reason, the water started to return, reaching its former levels within a decade. Since then, the water has stayed fairly stable, dipping a bit during a dry

Grant Gustafson, the president of Round Lake's Prince Albert Outing Club, takes pride in the history of the organization. The founders (merchants, clerks, and advocates, plus a druggist, a butcher, a sheriff, and others) lived in nearby Prince Albert and established the club to provide a serene, unspoiled retreat. Above, a unique spot for an afternoon nap at Gustafson's cabin.





**The lakeside proved to
be the intriguing**



**curiosity we'd heard
about, and a lot more**





period around the turn of the century, and subsequently coming back just a little too strong as the rains did likewise.

There isn't a completely tidy explanation for any of this. The water's initial drop in the 1930s is often attributed to prolonged drought during the dust bowl era. Roughly two kilometres across by three long, Round Lake isn't tiny, but it is shallow—only five or six metres deep in the middle—so fluctuating inflows and water tables are reflected quickly. Then again, the 1970s and '80s weren't particularly wet, yet the water here rose rapidly, so who can say with any certainty?

No one, says John Pomeroy, a University of Saskatchewan hydrology professor, but he can offer some clues. Round Lake is a closed basin lake in an area of sandy soil, so its levels mostly depend on the local water table, which in turn is most affected by annual precipitation. A lot of prairie lakes suffer from widely fluctuating levels, but most of the ones with cottagers have deeper bottoms, and for them losing water by the gigalitre isn't quite so catastrophic.

But Pomeroy offers another tidbit that could explain Round Lake's miraculous return. In a perverse way, the widespread clear-cutting in the '70s and '80s, followed by a big forest fire, might have been a good thing, since coniferous trees trap a lot of winter's snow on their branches, and much of that sublimates into the air instead of landing on the ground. When



you reduce the forests, runoff increases and the water table rises. "In clear-cuts, we've measured a sevenfold increase in spring runoff," he says.

So maybe Round Lake isn't unique in its waxing and waning, but in other ways, well, let's get back to Kellsey's cabin. One of the things *there*, on the wall, is a sign that says simply "G.C. MacDonald," a remnant from her great-grandfather's stewardship of the family's stake in Round Lake, a stewardship that lasted 51 years, finally ending with his death in 1957. Round Lake being Round Lake, a stake is not the simple plot of land it would be in most places. Rather, George MacDonald, general merchant turned provincial fisheries inspector, was a charter member of the Prince Albert Outing Club, founded in 1906, which owns most of the lake's north shore, and the club is owned by the cottagers, who are the club's de facto members. Basically, it's a condominium from the days before condominiums existed.

Today Prince Albert, the city, is the gateway to Saskatchewan's northern playground, a short drive from busy lakes like Emma and Christopher. Via a cross-country trail, {Continued on page 108}

Cottager Lorie Kellsey tells of the "wonderful, comfortable feeling that comes from entering the cabin and seeing these old familiar things that no one can bear to change, through almost 100 years and many generations." On p. 77, Brian Kellsey and Barb McCracken prepare to play a favourite game. Inside the 1938 log cabin (above, left).



Silly adult. You built this foldable, fun-filled



PICNICS ARE FOR KIDS

By Wayne Lennox
Photography Eugen Sakhnenko
Illustration Len Churchill

picnic table, but you're too big to use it



F

For kids, there's no such thing as single-purpose furniture. A picnic table isn't just for meals, it's for crafts and games, drawing, reading, and possibly for the occasional time out. And if its proportions and features are child-friendly, as this one is, it can become the very favourite place for those activities.

This kids' version of the picnic table is designed to be folded for compact storage. We've rounded or mitred any corners that could scrape elbows or knees and, unlike some of its adult counterparts, this table won't tip up when one bench is suddenly vacated. We used cedar lumber, though SPF will work too. Look for straight 2x4s with smooth surfaces that won't cause splinters. You can build this in a weekend—the biggest challenge is cutting half-lap joints—for under \$140 (or about \$80 if you use SPF).

1. For the tabletop and the benches, you'll need to cut ten 48" lengths of 2x4. Since kids will inevitably scrape their elbows on any exposed corner, trim 1" (at 45°) from the corners of the two outer tabletop boards.

2. Drill $\frac{1}{8}$ " clearance holes in the tabletop board ends (deck screws don't usually need holes to get through the wood, but these are close to the ends and may split the board otherwise). Space the tabletop boards evenly across the 22" end cleats, and secure them with #8 x 3" deck screws, making sure the tabletop is squared up. I mitred the ends of the cleats to match the tabletop boards.

3. Set your mitre saw to 30° to cut the legs and the crosspieces. The legs are 23½" along the sides; the crosspieces are 16¾" along the long, bottom edge. Cut the half-lap joints that connect these pieces (see "Cutting Half Laps," opposite). Round off the outside corners of the legs; they'll be less likely to splinter.

It's all about that base—under a rock-solid top, hinged legs swing out, locked in place by support struts that bolt to a centred metal bracket. Don't let the table's folding mechanism and removable benches intimidate you; this project is both builder- and kid-friendly.



Bracket-strut connection

4. Glue (using exterior-rated wood glue) and screw the cross-pieces to the legs. Use four #8 x 1¼" screws per lap joint. After you get a couple of screws in, double-check that the joint angle is 120° and that the outside-to-outside corner measurement at the bottom of the legs is 36".
5. Cut the bench supports (each 39" long) and secure to the legs so their bottom edges are 7¼" up from the ground. Use glue and four #8 x 2½" screws at each connection. Flip the tabletop, then centre and clamp the leg assemblies—bench support facing out—to the tabletop end cleats. Attach the leg assemblies to the tabletop (see fig. 1) with four exterior hinges.
6. To secure the support struts in the centre of the table, I found a suitable metal bracket (the kind that's usually sold with joist hangers and other framing connectors). It needs an easy modification, however: drill two 7/16" holes as in fig. 4 (p. 85). Centre the bracket on the bottom of the tabletop and screw it in place.
7. Cut the two 25" support struts and notch one end of each as in fig. 5. Hinge the struts to the bench supports; the struts sit on either side of the centre point. **Tip:** end grain doesn't have much holding power; use #8 x 3" screws here instead of the ones that came with the hinges.
8. Remove the struts by popping their hinge pins. Cut the pockets with a jig saw, or use the same technique as you did to cut the half laps. Knock off the corners of the pockets as in the plans—they'll be in scraping range of young knees. Drill 7/16" holes (see fig. 1) where you just marked them for both the folded and legs-out position. Reassemble the struts.

Secure the struts in the legs-out position with the eye bolt, nut, and washer. This is one of those instances in construction, as in life, where theory may collide with reality. I had to fiddle a bit to get a good fit, and ended up reaming the holes slightly so the bolt could go through smoothly. Flip the table right side up.

9. Cut four bench cleats 7½" long. Mitre one end of each at 45° (just for looks) and the other at 30°, so it fits tightly against the leg (see fig. 1). Lay an outer bench board across two bench

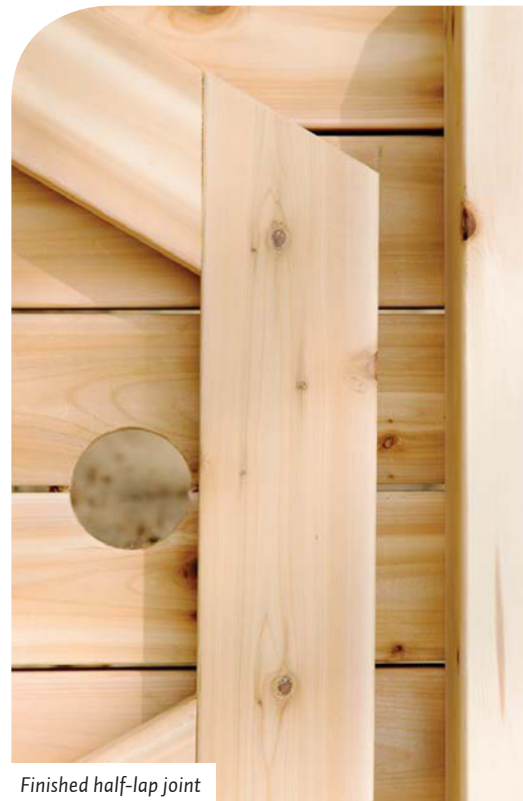
Cutting half laps

When you're joining two boards face to face, a half lap is a strong, streamlined joint that gives you a lot of surface area for glue. To make the joint, you need to remove half the thickness of each board and then attach those two thin sections to each other (fig. 1).

If you have a sliding compound mitre saw, raise the blade (check the owner's manual for instructions) to cut at exactly half the depth of the 2x4—in theory, that's ¾", but double-check your lumber. Raising the blade, however, means it likely won't slide back far enough to

make a kerf of consistent depth all the way across. You'll need a sacrificial spacer board, positioned against the fence, to move the 2x4 far enough out. (For safety, use a spacer at least as long as the fence.) If you don't have a sliding compound mitre saw, use a circular saw with the blade set to the correct depth.

With either saw, make multiple passes across the joint, then remove most of the waste with a chisel, down to the depth of the kerf. Test-fit the joint and fine-tune with a rasp.



Finished half-lap joint

MATERIALS AND HARDWARE

- 9 2x4 x 8' cedar or SPF
- 1 length of ¾" hardwood dowel (for two 1¼" pegs)
- 6 3" x 3" exterior butt hinges (with removable hinge pins)
- 30 #8 x 3" deck screws
- 50 #8 x 2½" deck screws
- 16 #8 x 1¼" deck screws
- 1 ¾" x 5" eye bolt, washer, wing nut
- 1 Simpson Strong-Tie ML26Z bracket
- Outdoor-rated wood glue
- 2 Ikea Kalas tumblers
- 1 beach umbrella



TIP!

When you drill with a large diameter hole saw, the drill creates a great deal of torque; brace the drill firmly to prevent injury if the saw binds in the hole.

supports, so the outside corners of the three pieces align. Clamp two bench cleats to the bench board, so the cleats fit snugly against the bench supports and the 45° mitre faces out. Lift off the bench assembly. Keeping everything square, screw the cleats to the board, with four #8 x 2½" screws at each end. Screw the second bench board in place and then assemble the other bench in the same way.

10. To prevent the benches from slipping off, we added pegs (1¼" lengths of ¾" dowel) to each support. Mark the position for the dowels on both the benches and the supports—make sure the dowels are centred on the outer bench board. The dowels are probably not a precise ¾"; I found that a 11⁄16" Forstner bit gave me the best fit, but do your own tests in scrap wood. The hole in the bench board should be ⅝" larger; you need a little wiggle room to get the bench on and off.

11. The two 2½" holes in the tabletop will hold plastic tumblers for crayons, paint, dice, or whatever else kids are likely to spill or lose. Use a hole saw—the best choice—or a jig saw. You

observant DIY types will be asking yourselves, "How did that knucklehead drill a hole when the hole-saw bit is centred in the gap between the boards?" I drilled a guide hole in a plywood scrap that I clamped in place to get the hole started. 12. For the beach umbrella, I just drilled a hole in the tabletop, about ⅛" larger than the diameter of the umbrella pole. Make sure you position the umbrella so it won't interfere with the struts below. 13. Using a roundover bit, rout the perimeter of the tabletop and the inside and outside edges of the benches. 14

To store the table, lift each bench (left) off the wooden pegs that hold it in place. Flip the table, undo the bolt that secures the two support struts, and fold the legs. Attach the bolt again and the table is ready to put away.

Wayne Lennox will be building this table at the Spring Cottage Life Show, Mar. 27-29. Visit cottagelife.com/shows for details.



A seat at their table

Fig. 1

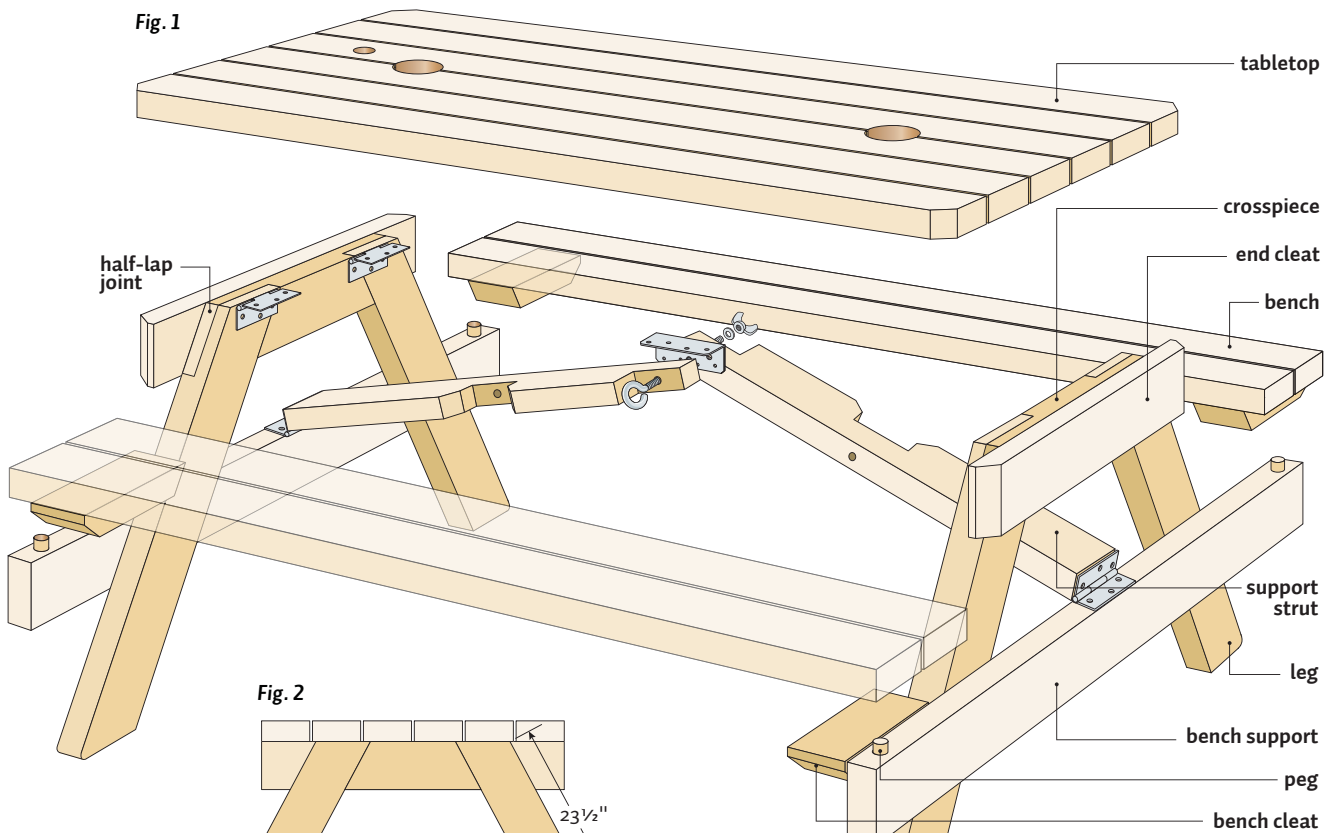


Fig. 2

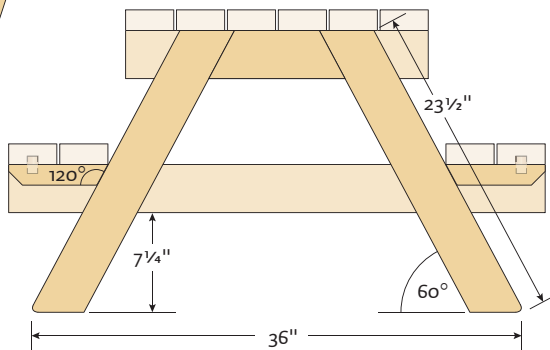


Fig. 3: FRONT VIEW

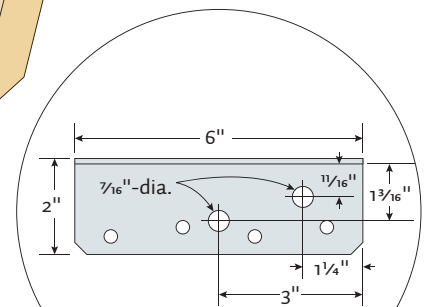
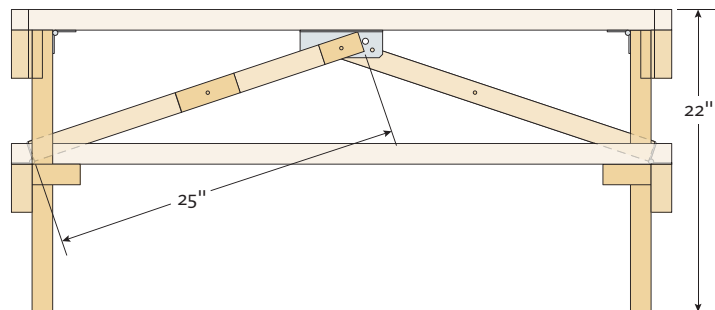


Fig. 4: BRACKET MODIFICATIONS

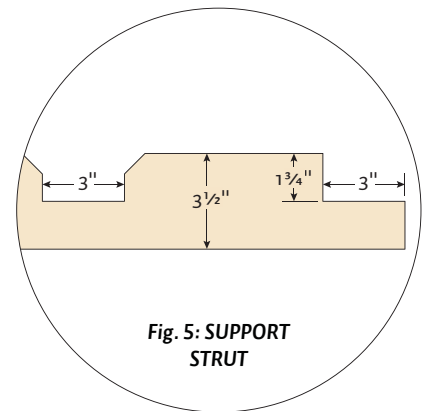


Fig. 5: SUPPORT STRUT

Do you need a finish?

For many outdoor projects, the best finish is no finish. Film-forming finishes, such as paint or varnish, can chip and flake over time, especially on furniture that will endure rough treatment. Penetrating finishes, such as oils or stains, last better, but need to be reapplied occasionally. I didn't use any finish on the table—the cedar will weather to a handsome silver-grey, accented by stray crayon marks.

COLESLAW,

Does your same old slaw need a refresh? Improvise an update.



NEW TRICKS

No recipe required (but a terrific one included!) — Jennifer Danter

Start here

Our Classic Coleslaw is a cinch to adapt for your own signature slaw. Or try one of our versions, at right. (Recipes on next page.)

Buffalo Wing Slaw

Replace cabbage in Classic Coleslaw with sliced black kale. Add 1 stalk celery, sliced. Toss with Buffalo Wing Dressing and 1 cup (250 ml) shredded cooked chicken.

Carolina Red Slaw

Use a box grater to grate ½ a green cabbage and 1 Vidalia or red onion (less if you prefer a milder taste). Toss with Carolina Red Slaw Dressing.

Thai Slaw

Slice 1 medium napa cabbage. Sliver ½ a mango and ½ a red pepper. Toss with Thai Dressing and sprinkle with ¼ cup (60 ml) chopped roasted peanuts.

Photography Jim Norton

Classic coleslaw

A two-step process ensures coleslaw that's tangy and fresh, with just a hint of creaminess to bind it together.

- 1 tbsp cider vinegar (15 ml)
- 1 tsp sugar (5 ml)
- 1 tsp sea salt (5 ml)
- ¼ head green cabbage, shredded
- ¼ head red cabbage, shredded
- 1 large carrot, shredded
- ½ sweet onion, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup mayonnaise (60 ml)
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard (15 ml)

1. Combine vinegar with sugar and salt. Drizzle over cabbage, carrot, and onion and toss. Let sit for about 10 minutes, then place in a colander set over the sink and let drain for about 40 minutes.
2. Squeeze out excess liquid, then place in a bowl. Combine mayo and Dijon, then toss with coleslaw.

MORE VARIATIONS

Horseradish Slaw Replace Dijon with 2 tbsp (30 ml) creamed horseradish. The heat will temper any bitterness if the cabbage is old.

Scandinavian Slaw Add chopped fresh dill and pinches of toasted caraway seeds. Splash with vodka.

Tender, delicate Savoy

Say yes to these dressings

Buffalo Wing

Replace ½ of the mayonnaise with sour cream. Add ¼ cup (60 ml) crumbled blue cheese and Frank's RedHot sauce to taste.

Carolina Red Slaw

Replace mayo with ketchup or barbecue sauce. Add a splash of vinegar or hot sauce, if you like.

Thai

Replace Dijon with Sriracha. Add 1 tsp (5 ml) ground ginger, 1 tsp (5 ml) fish sauce, and juice of ½ a lime.

THE CABBAGE

Cabbage stored over winter has a stronger, more bitter taste than newly picked fall cabbage.

Green

The classic, its thick, shiny leaves are crisp with a mildly sweet, yet assertive flavour.

Red

Crunchier than green, with sweet-peppery notes.

Savoy

Tender, wrinkly, easy to chop, with a more delicate flavour than green.

Napa

Soft texture and mild taste. This cabbage soaks up other flavours.

More options

Garnet-coloured radicchio or tangy endive add pleasantly bitter notes and crunch. Fennel gives celery-like texture with anise flavour and scent. Thinly sliced kohlrabi is a crunchy cross of broccoli and cabbage flavour, with a hint of

turnip. Vitamin-packed kale's tough, frilly leaves are surprisingly herbaceous. Black kale (a.k.a. dinosaur or lacinato kale) has a slightly sweeter, more delicate taste than the curly kind.

THE CHOP

By hand Place a cored wedge of cabbage cut-side down. Thinly slice crosswise until it's difficult to handle. Rotate what's left so it's flat, then continue to slice. For easier eating, halve long shreds; for a finer texture, chop shreds into rice-sized pieces. Hand-cut cabbage stands up to thick, creamy dressings.

By machine A food processor's chopping blade makes long strips with a softer crunch than hand cut. Use the grating blade for soft, kfc-style slaw. (For small amounts, use a box grater; it's easier to clean.) Grated cabbage is best with vinaigrettes or light, creamy dressings.

BURGERS: HIDE THE CHEESE, LOSE THE BUN

For a molten hit of gooey cheese, make a Minneapolis-style **Juicy Lucy burger**. Form two thin beef patties, then sandwich a quartered and stacked slice of processed—yes,

processed—Cheddar. Pinch the edges to seal before grilling or frying. Careful with the first bite—like fast-food coffee, contents are hot.

Or fancy up your burger by replacing

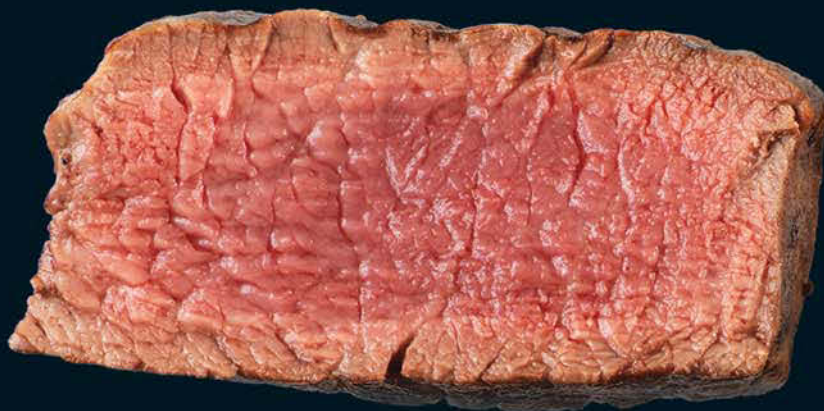
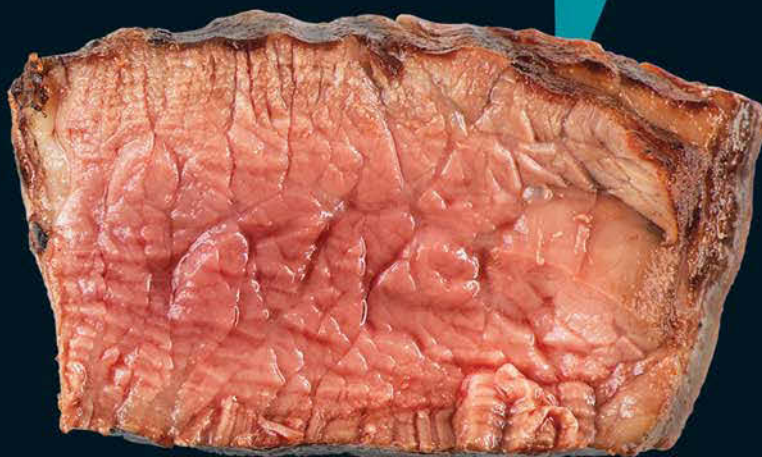
a boring bun with a simple **potato cake** (right). Grate russet, Yukon Gold, or sweet potatoes. Mix in one beaten egg per large potato, and season. Fry patty-sized mounds

over medium heat until golden on both sides. Top the meat with a fried egg and chopped tomatoes, pickles, and red onions. Get out the knives and forks. —Martin Zibauer



WHEN IT'S THIN
Multi-flipping works best on thick steaks and chops, where you have time to build a flavourful brown exterior. And it needs a very hot grill to work properly. For skinny, quick-cooking cuts—anything less than 1" (2.5 cm)—it's better to go for some speedy sear marks using tried-and-true single-flip style.

TWO TENDERLOINS
Both have medium-rare centres, but the single-flip steak on top has a lot of well-done meat, too. The multi-flip below is more consistently cooked through, with just a thin (and delicious) crust.



**GRILL
GENIUS**

You'll flip over this!

The commandment that steaks must only be flipped once is one of those funny "rules" that have been around for ages and are never questioned. It certainly worries novice grillers, as if more than one turn will somehow cause

bad juju with the space-time continuum. To be fair, the single-flip method works just fine and has produced billions of delicious steaks over the decades. But, according to many grilling experts, multiple

flips create better-tasting, more evenly cooked steaks.

THE SINGLE FLIP
Traditional technique says leave a steak alone on the grill. (One 45° to 90° rotation for a cross-hatched

effect is permissible.) Once you've developed some good browning, a nice char, and some pretty grill marks, flip the meat, and grill until the steak is done to your taste and the second side is browned and marked.

THE MULTI-FLIP
With this method, the meat gets flipped every 30 to 60 seconds, building up a tasty brown crust, without any grill marks whatsoever.

When you use multiple flips, each surface of the steak makes multiple contacts with the hot grate, cooking through conduction. And because the top of the meat stays warm until the next turn, it's as if it were being heated from the top and the bottom at the same time. The upshot? Multi-flipping can cook meat faster.

With the single-flip method, one side of the meat, then the other, gets extremely hot for a relatively long period. This can create an overcooked outer layer as you wait for the centre to reach the desired doneness. And if you mistime the flip, the steak will be overdone before the second side is browned. By keeping each instance of grill contact relatively short, multi-flipping does away with the superheated and overcooked layer, achieving a more consistent level of doneness from top to bottom.
—David Zimmer



A splash of fine brine

It's got twang and versatility and, best of all, it's probably sitting in the fridge at this very moment. No need to scour gourmet shops and farmers' markets for this hipper-than-thou ingredient; just don't toss that pickle juice after you crunch down on the last baby dill.

Pickle juice's popularity was initially boosted in Brooklyn, where the bearded class took to the "pickleback"—a brine chaser that has a remarkable ability to erase the burn after a shot of whiskey. Sound bizarre? Surely, no worse than a dirty martini—the olive brine and vodka cocktail that soared in the 1990s. Strange or no, pickle juice is having a moment, piggybacking on the recent surge in canning and pickling seasonal local produce.

Now that the lid is finally off, a splash of pickle juice adds a hit of acidity and a pinch of salt to marinades, salad dressings, barbecue sauces and, yes, even cocktails. And, while the taxonomy of pickle brines could fill a book, here's a handy tip: "shelf" pickles always contain vinegar, whereas the "fresh" pickles in the refrigerator section are often vinegar free, relying instead on salt brine. Check the label to be certain, though.

An ounce of salt brine from a fresh pickle like a half-sour, for example, takes a Red Eye (beer and tomato juice) up a notch and adds a kick to just about Bloody everything.

Shelf pickle juice, meanwhile, is better for brining poultry or meat, adding umami to barbecue sauce, and making quick pickles. Finely sliced red onions, for example, only need about an hour in room-temperature brine to pickle.—Christine Sismondo

In Poland, pickle juice is a traditional hangover cure, possibly because it replaces lost salts. The jury's out as to whether or not it works, but a splash of mildly sweet brine from gourmet pickled onions added to chilled Polish vodka is a tasty attempt to beat the system.

WARSAW PACT

In a mixing glass, stir 2 oz Wyborowa vodka and ½ oz pickled onion juice over ice. Strain into chilled glass and garnish with two pickled onions and a light spritz of lemon from a small wedge.

DIRTY PICKLE MARTINI

In a mixing glass, stir well over ice: 1½ oz Broker's London Dry Gin, ½ oz dry vermouth, and 1 tsp (5 ml) mild shelf pickle juice (President's Choice Baby Dill works well). Strain into a chilled glass and garnish with a lemon twist.

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Spicy chili bean bake

Until spring truly chases the cold away, you'll need some warming comfort food for the gang. This easy and satisfying one-pot bean dish is a lazy French cassoulet crossed with a Tex-Mex chili.

—Monda Rosenberg

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil (15 ml)
- 1 lb hot Italian sausage, about 5 (500 g)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) whole tomatoes or 8 plum tomatoes
- 1 can (28 oz/796 ml) baked beans in tomato sauce
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups corn kernels, rinsed and drained (500 ml)
- 2 tsp finely chopped chipotle pepper in adobo sauce (10 ml)
- 1 tbsp chili powder (15 ml)
- 2 tsp ground cumin (10 ml)
- 1 tsp dried leaf oregano (5 ml)
- 2 cubanella peppers, roughly chopped
- ½ cup chopped cilantro (125 ml)

1. Heat oil in a large, ovenproof pan or Dutch oven over medium heat. Brown sausages, then remove to a cutting board. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
2. Add onion and garlic to fat in pan. Reduce heat to medium low. Stir often until tender, about 10 minutes, scraping up brown bits. Add oil if needed. Pour in juice from canned tomatoes, then roughly break up tomatoes and add. (Or cut plum tomatoes into chunks and add with ½ cup/125 ml water.) Slice each sausage into 4 or 5 pieces and add to pan with baked beans, black beans, corn, chipotle, and seasonings.
3. Cover and bake 40 minutes. Stir in peppers and cilantro; cover and bake about 20 minutes more. Garnish with cilantro. Keeps well in the fridge for up to 4 days. MAKES 14 cups (3.5 L).

LE CROCK, M'SIEUR

Yes, sir, you can use your slow cooker. Prep sausages, onion, and garlic as above. Place in slow cooker with remaining ingredients except cubanelles and cilantro. Cook on high for 3 hours. Add peppers and cilantro and cook 20 minutes more.

THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT

After a long, long winter, we crave the tongue-peeling, sweat-inducing spice of a trip to Jamaica. Time to warm up to our favourite jerk seasonings.



Walkerswood

The jar says “Hot and Spicy” and it does not lie. A well-balanced paste; with scotch-bonnet heat tempered by sweet and tart ingredients.



Wonder Chuck

Savory and aromatic, with soy sauce underscoring bright allspice and coriander flavours. Like Walkerswood, it's on the salty side.



PC Memories of Montego Bay

The heat builds slowly in this pourable marinade—overall, it's milder and more tangy than the others. —Martin Zibauer

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From the table to the dock, try this recipe to take your cottage entertaining to the next level.

lesley stowe's raincoast crisps® with Canadian Blue Cheese + Fig & Bacon Jam

- 3 bacon slices, thinly sliced
- 6 oz (180 g) dried figs, finely diced
- ½ cup (125 mL) raw sugar
- 1¼ cups (310 mL) water
- 10 oz (300 g) Canadian Blue cheese
- 1 package of lesley stowe's raincoast crisps® rosemary raisin pecan crackers

In a saucepan on medium-high heat, brown bacon until crisp. Remove excess fat.

Add figs, sugar and water. Cover and bring to a boil.

Remove cover and simmer 12 to 15 minutes.

Let cool in a jar before refrigerating. Serve as a side dish with Blue cheese and lesley stowe's raincoast crisps®.

Visit
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Lesley Stowe, founder of raincoast crisps®, is a Parisian-trained chef who is passionate about creating foods from simple, wholesome ingredients.



Recipe courtesy of Dairy Farmers of Canada.

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Workshop

A red sump pump is the central focus of the image. It has a black float switch and a black discharge pipe. The pump is positioned on a bed of grey rocks. The background is a solid red color. The word 'Workshop' is written in a large, white, stylized font with a blue outline at the top of the image.

REAL TOOL

DOWN IN THE SUMPS

Pity the neglected sump pump, stuck in the dank regions of the cottage basement >>

WHAT SUMP, DOC?

Matthew Ackerman, a technician for Pump-Tech Plumbing and Pump Repair in Lockport, Man., prefers submersible pumps over the older pedestal or column style, which has its motor mounted on a shaft. "Basement moisture can get in a pedestal pump's motor," he says. Submersibles have a sealed motor, they're quiet, and the pit can be tightly covered, keeping radon and other soil gases out of the basement. Since sumps are also easy to ignore, add "pump maintenance" to your spring and fall cottage checklists.

>> REAL TOOL

A sump pump is "out of sight, out of mind—until it quits," says Brian Kelly of Kelly's Pumps in North Bay, Ont. You can avoid a lot of cursing and cleanup bills by giving your pump a little TLC a couple of times a year.

Start outside at the pump's discharge. It should direct water at least two metres from the cottage, away from paths that could become slippery and neighbouring structures.

Next, unplug the pump (checking the cord for the gnaw marks of hungry rodents). Whether it's a pedestal or

submersible model, withdraw the pump and inspect the ports or screens where water enters. Brush off debris and flush the ports with clean water. Kelly says it's not always easy to inspect the impeller, especially on low-end units. But if you can, rinse the area around the impeller. Check that it turns smoothly and isn't broken or jammed by gravel or debris. On some pumps, the key components—the impeller and the float switch—can be replaced, but cheaper pumps tend to be throwaway.

While the pump is out, grab a wet/dry vac or pail and sponge, and suck or bail any muck from the pit. (And never route laundry wash water into the sump. Detergent and lint will damage the pump—and the lake.)

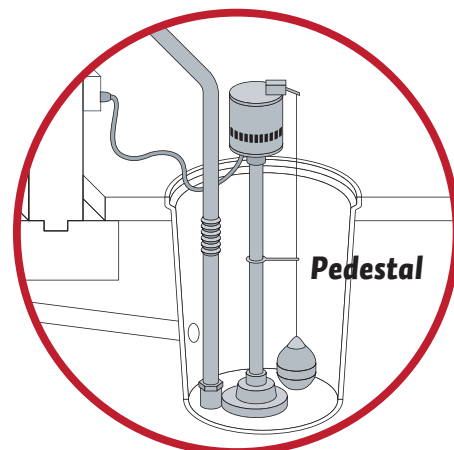
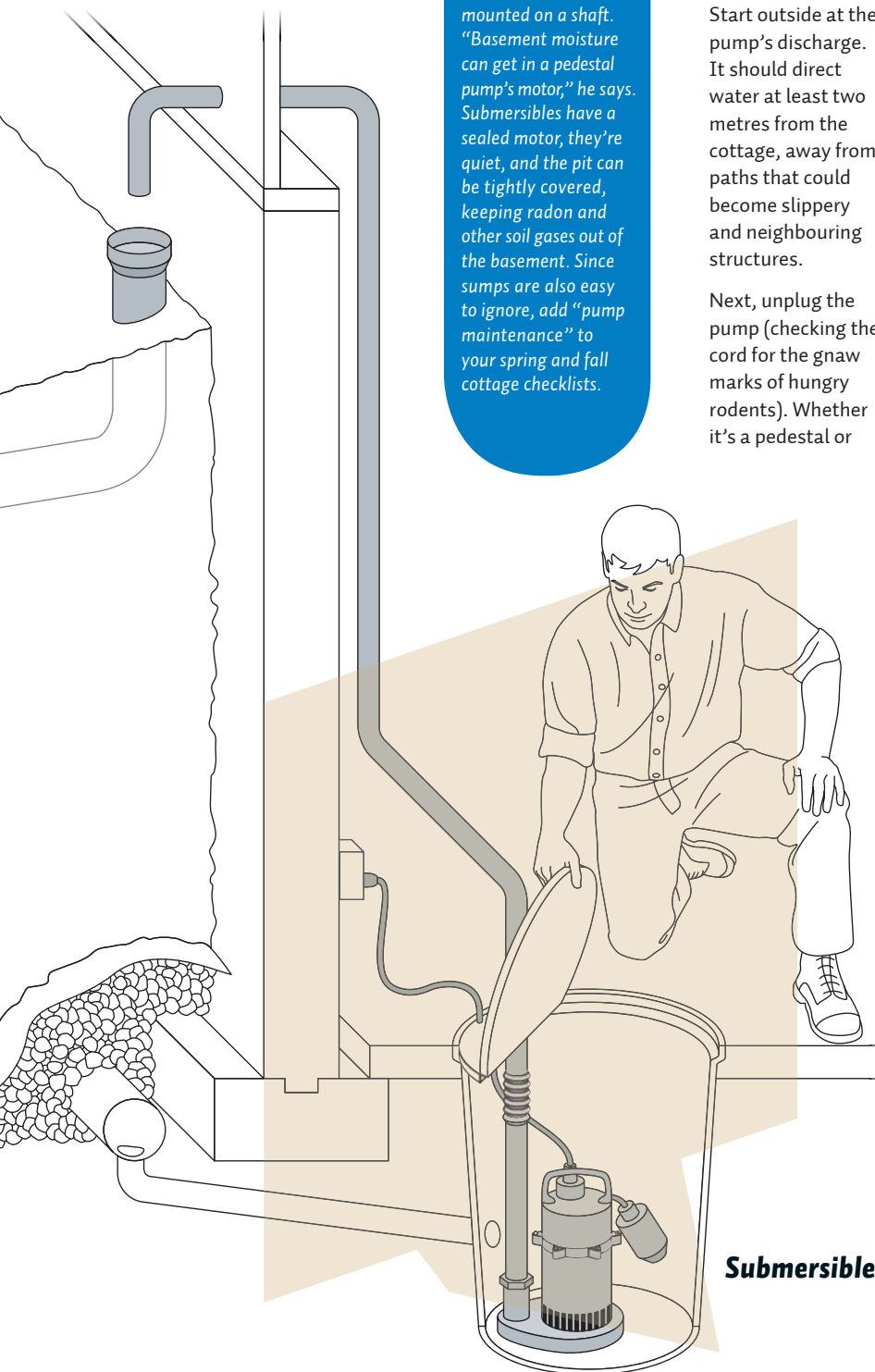
Finally, reinstall the pump and check its couplings. If there's no check valve on the discharge pipe, install one—otherwise, water runs back when the pump cycles off, causing premature wear. Ensure the vent hole between the pump outlet and the check valve is clear. If it's plugged, the resulting airlock will hamper the pump.

With the pump back in its home, dump a pail of water in—it should run smoothly and quietly. Dump another pail, and scamper outside to ensure the water is flowing from the discharge. If you have a battery backup pump (a good idea for cottagers), give it the same once-over, plus a battery test.

A routine checkup may only take 20 minutes, twice a year, but a happy sump pump means a dry basement—and happy cottagers. —Ray Ford

Mind the gap

An air gap outside the cottage will help prevent ice from plugging the discharge line, if the pump operates during the winter.



Submersible

MATERIALS

Into these woods



Oh, sure, we get why builders put drywall in new cottages: it's an inexpensive, familiar wall surface that goes up quickly. But we want something more rustic. More woody. Stikwood planks are made from real wood—including reclaimed, weathered snow fence, resawn to $\frac{3}{16}$ " thick. That's thin enough to go overtop existing drywall, and you probably won't have to move or replace any of the window or door trim. Peel-and-stick adhesive strips on the back of each piece make for quick DIY installation. Stikwood is about \$14 per sq. ft. and is distributed across Canada by EuroCork Wall Design in Vancouver. —Martin Zibauer



{Source Guide, page 110}

STUFF WE LIKE

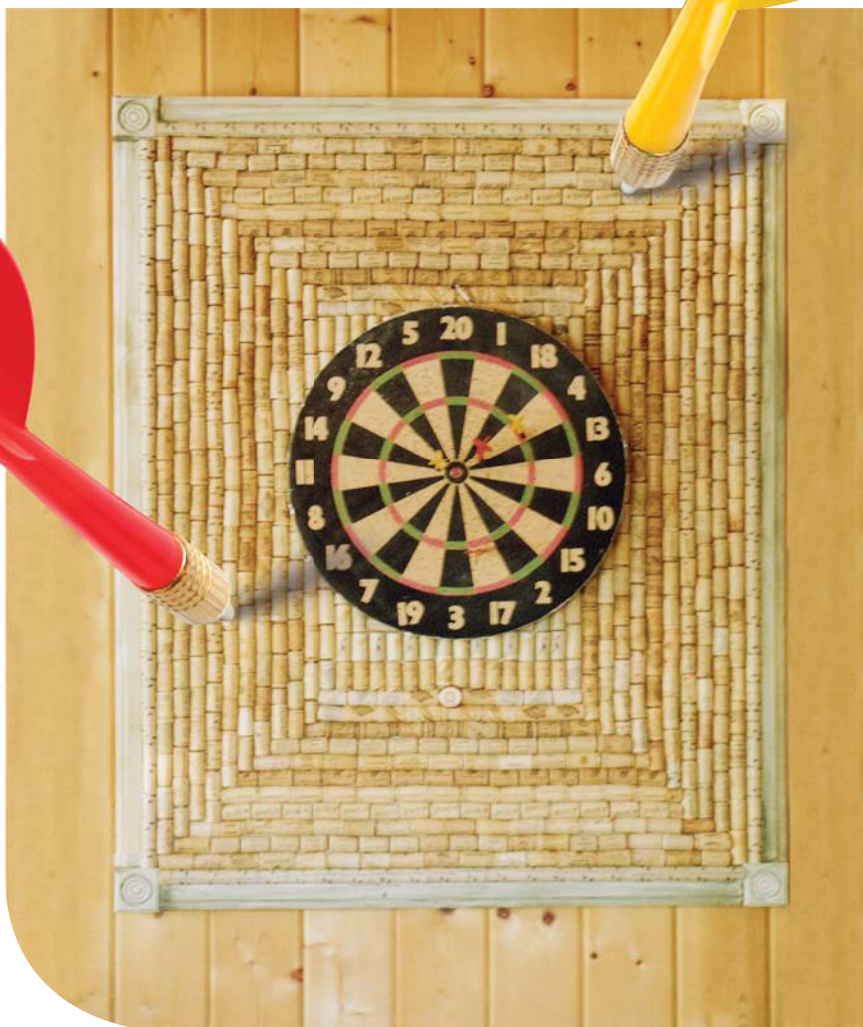
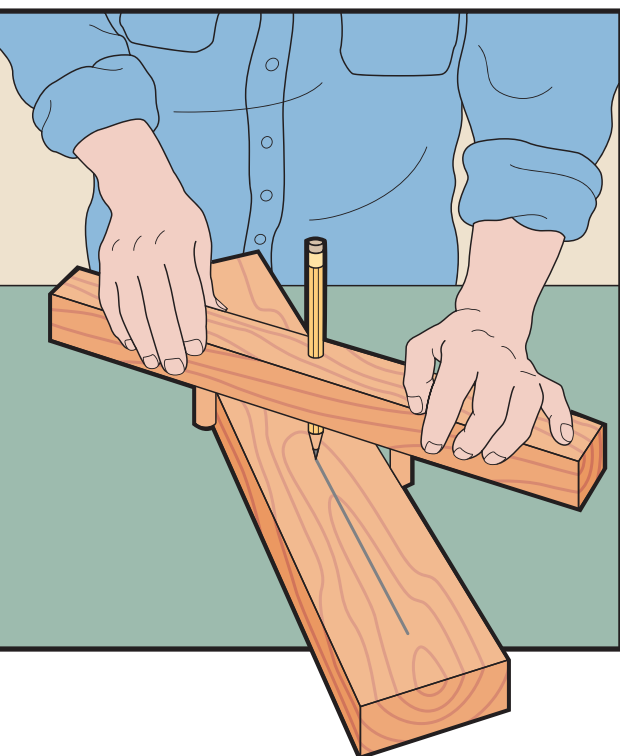
Drain wave

Do one thing, well. The Zip-It tool is 18" of flexible, barbed plastic that pulls hair and other clogs from drains. \$4.99 at Canadian Tire.

SOLUTION

The middle path

With one 2x2 and three evenly spaced holes—two sized for dowel pins, one for a pencil—you have an easy, no-measuring way to mark the centre line of any board. To use this jig, just slide it along the board with the dowels against the edges and a pencil in the middle. —M.Z.



GREAT INVENTION

Putting a cork on it

Val Cabell has a wall-saving invention for anyone who has ever uncorked one (or three) too many during a cottage dart tournament. The Georgian Bay, Ont., cottager's protective board not only shields panelling from the errant throws of accuracy-challenged competitors, but it does so by elegantly "upcycling" spent bottle stoppers.

Now prominently displayed at a friend's cottage, Cabell's board features more than 800 corks mounted with carpenter's glue on a rectangle of quarter-inch plywood, and it's edged with decorative moulding. Puttering oenophiles should select natural stoppers rather than artificial ones, she says. "Darts won't stick in plastic. You need real corks, and they're getting harder to find.

"It took me five years to collect enough corks," Cabell adds, "but just half a day to put them on the board." Because she doesn't pull many corks at her own cottage, she sought donations from cottage friends and neighbours. Not surprisingly, the appeal produced a vintage crop. "I had people leaving bags of corks on the dock," she says with a laugh. —Ray Ford



For more inventions, and to send in your great ideas, visit cottage.life.com/inventions

KNOW-HOW

Fuel system Rx

Gunk in any small engine's fuel system can send it to sick bay, whether it's an ATV, a chainsaw, or a brush cutter. Here are three conditions that can block your engine's arteries. —Ryan Shervill

Oxidation

Plastic tanks are now common for boat engines, but many other small engines still have steel tanks, which can rust and eventually leak. Rust particles can also detach and clog carburetor jets.

Rx Use a dental mirror and a flashlight to look inside your tank. If you find rust, your best bet is to replace the tank. It's an easy job, usually involving a few bolts and a hose clamp.

Condensation

When water condenses in the tank, it can lead to internal rust or, in severe cases, an engine that just won't run—usually because water is in the carburetor.

Rx Store equipment with a full fuel tank to minimize the air space where condensation can form—and use fuel stabilizer if the engine will sit for a long period.

Dirt

Most tanks have a “pickup filter,” located on the end of the fuel hose inside the tank. If these filters, which block large particles from entering your carb, plug up, they'll need to be cleaned or replaced.

Rx Often, you can use a length of stiff wire with a small hook at the end to reach inside your tank and hook the fuel line. Carefully pull the line and its attached filter out through the filler neck. Remove the filter from the line by gently twisting and pulling. Clean or replace as necessary before dropping the whole assembly back into the tank.



REAL TOOL

Getting a handle on it

Loose drawer pulls or cabinet knobs are frustrating. Over time, the machine screws that are behind most drawer pulls can work loose, but a drop of automotive thread-locking compound will secure them. If you have to replace a screw, and you need to cut the new one to length, grab the wire strippers from your electrical kit. Near the jaws, look for a series of threaded holes marked with thread pitches. Those holes are the mini-bolt cutters you didn't know you had. Never again will you try to cut a little machine screw with a great big hacksaw. —Michel Roy



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WHACKED OUT

{Continued from page 69}

"kind of roaming around," moved in with them. The house had a detached garage, and the previous owner had left behind his tools and various building materials, which planted the creative-construction seed in the brothers. "Prior to that," says Andrew, "neither of us had really built a whole lot. But now we had proper equipment. I didn't have a job, so I played around in the garage, and so did he, and we filled it up with junk. I figure that's where it all started."

It was a conflation of the garage and the family cottage that gave them their first idea for an actual television show; they called it *Redneck Green Neck*. (They have a knack for great titles.) "We wanted to make a show where two brothers got together and built wacky recycled projects," says Kevin. "So we built a canoe out of oil drums with outriggers on it that were kegs so you had drinks on tap in the canoe." *Redneck Green Neck* didn't go anywhere, but the brothers kept spending time at the cottage with their families, and that's when the idea for *Brojects* really came together. "It grew naturally out of a family space," Andrew says. "You have a cottage and you want to add to it. We were doing it anyway. My dad built the deck and then the deck off the boathouse. Then Kevin, my sister, Annie, and I built the outhouse. Every time we came, we'd do more. It was an evolution from my parents—they're workers."

An outside observer might not call it "evolution," exactly. Maybe something more like "mutation." But the brothers, who are seriously funny, are also strangely serious. About being funny, that is. "We try not to plan too much," says Andrew. "We want it to be, like, we're two guys thrown into a situation and we have to do it, versus having everything sorted out beforehand." Kevin agrees, pointing out that too much forethought avoids screw-ups, which are the show's life-blood. "A lot of the 'good' features come from problems. You don't want to spend a lot of time thinking—you just want to come down here with a vague idea and see what happens. That's the process. That's where the jokes come from. You don't want it to be Ikea."

Ikea it isn't.

Back at the cottage, three generations mill

about, along with several friends and cousins for good measure, while the brothers wend their way through everything and everyone, managing to spend quality time with their loved ones while simultaneously whipping up a new slate of deranged projects for the next season. At least, Kevin is thinking about the projects; Andrew is mainly preoccupied with making pizza in the Ultimate Pizza Oven (built using, besides other things, an old organ pump). The cameras aren't rolling yet, but you quickly realize that what you see on TV isn't much different than what unfolds in real life. At both ends of the property, there are piles of lumber and metal, power tools, and giant plastic pieces. Men in trucks arrive with deliveries, every driver a relation or a close friend. It's like a Chekhov play set at a Canadian cottage instead of a Russian *dacha*: Three Sisters, two wives, six kids, and 14 cousins.

And two parents. Halfway through the afternoon, a car pulls in, and Brian and Glenda emerge and glide across the property, smiling, hugging grandkids, waving to all as they do. They are the epitome of elegance and sophistication—but with that added twist of Bucklesian "difference" that makes them not quite conventional. Brian is a retired banker and Glenda a retired preschool teacher. They take their place on the raised deck with their aperitifs, watching their sons down on the lawn with a mixture of great pride and possibly greater bemusement. "What really delights us about this show is how it's allowed the boys to spend so much time together," Glenda will later note.

"And," her husband will joke, "that Andrew finally has a real job."

Down on the lawn, Andrew looks up from the Ultimate Pizza Oven at his parents and says, "You'll notice that no one ever calls this place a 'camp,' the way they would in the rest of Nova Scotia. That's my mother. She'll let us do whatever we want here as long as we call it a 'cottage.' In her view, it's not a hunting camp." He considers what he's said. "Well, almost whatever we want."

"It must be nice to drop all the hard work and play with pizza dough," says Kevin, walking by for maybe the third time with a checklist of film-prep things they need to do.

"Typical IT weenie talk," says Andrew. "My brother has another job in telecommunications. So he's uptight in that telecommunications way."

"Now, now, Junior," says Kevin. He says this because he is, in fact, seven years older than Andrew, a detail he never lets his kid sibling forget.

Their sister, Shannon, who comes out of the house a minute later, mojito in hand, explains the relationship. "Andrew was like this as a kid. But I didn't see this creative side of Kevin until later. In high school, Andrew took one of those big old televisions and turned it into an aquarium. He was in the basement working on removing the TV part when we heard an explosion." She takes a sip of her drink. Enough said. "Andrew comes up with an impossible idea, and Kevin makes it not just possible but safe."

It's a dichotomy that informs everything they do. First comes Andrew's sense of extreme whimsy. "Andrew made his wedding ring out of an old fork," says Ashley, a midwife when they're back home in Victoria. "He made a rocking chair out of old tennis racquets and skis. And, yes, we have a shelving unit mounted on our ceiling."

Then comes Kevin, the editor, the translator, the custodian of their practical humility. As dusk approaches, he finally puts his list of chores down and sits on the deck to look out over the lake. What he really hopes, he says, is that their show inspires people to try their own project. "If people can see us do it, with *our* level of skill, it may make them less fearful to try it themselves." It's a modest and admirable dream, at one with the brothers' personalities, not to mention Nova Scotia's. One half *Trailer Park Boys*, one half Celtic myth. One half Bubbles and one half Alistair MacLeod.

Then Kevin excuses himself and gets up to join his brother and a dozen other people for a voyage on the Ultimate Swim Raft. They get about 100 metres before they almost capsizes. 🐻

Christy Ann Conlin lives in and writes from the Annapolis Valley, N.S.

Season two of *Brojects* premieres on the Cottage Life channel on Thursday, March 26, at 9 p.m. Meet the brothers in person at the Spring Cottage Life Show, March 27-29.

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THE LAKE THAT WOULDN'T BE

{Continued from page 79}

Round Lake is only half as far away as those spots, but even 25 km was a long way by horse and buggy. The club was formed to provide the young metropolis with a summer resort. By 1913, several dozen cottages had been built, plus an impressive two-storey clubhouse, which also had a store and rooms for rent. In 1919, a dance pavilion went up.

As a club, the members had considerable control over how their little resort developed, which they did not fail to exercise. Their inclination was to have a spot that was quiet and unspoiled. Powerboats, for example, are not allowed, and even electricity was resisted until the 1980s. Lorie Kellsey's parents were among those who didn't see the need. The majority of cottage owners, including the Kellseys, still rely on outhouses, and bring in bottled water for drinking. Overall, rusticity rules.

Now, a skeptic might suggest that the best way to prevent wild nights and wanton development at a recreational lake is

to have it dry up for three or four decades, during which time dozens of other lakes with actual water are opened up by new highways. But that skeptic should first come for a walk with Lorie Kellsey along the lakeside path that, by stern regulation, all cottagers must keep cleared at the front of their properties.

The first stop is the clubhouse across the road, a more modest structure that replaced the original about a decade ago. There's no second storey with rooms to rent and, perhaps more sadly, no tattered moose head for Kellsey and her sisters to ritually pat, upon first arriving every summer, and watch the stuffing pour out of its nose. What the new clubhouse and the club it serves do have, though, is an active membership intent on returning Round Lake to its glory days. They organize an annual regatta, outdoor movie nights, a ladies' tea, and a pig roast, all of which might have taken place back in the days when gentlemen wore boaters. Clubhouse yoga classes, not so much—although Round Lake has long appealed to those who could be characterized as creative, if not mildly bohemian. Mina

Forsyth, one of the province's best known painters, summered at the lake in the '70s and '80s. And I will not forget the quiet word from my writer acquaintance, who suggested that Jessie and I consider whistling before popping by their place because when the weather was pleasant, she and the professor liked to enjoy their days in the altogether. Kellsey hints that the inclination is not unknown today.

Walking west from the clubhouse, we pause to pick a few saskatoons, and pass on the hazelnuts, which won't be ready till later in the summer. A fallen tree must be ducked under in one place, and the very high shoreline skirted here and there. The cottages pass by as if in a newsreel. A few are fairly new, and many display evidence of recent work, but an equal number appear untouched since the days of dance pavilions and gramophones. A log cabin here, a low-slung-roof bungalow there, a tidy little stuccoed thing, not much larger than a garden shed, hidden among the trees. We stop to chat with David Larwood, who is building an expansive new deck in front of a representative specimen. "When we saw the

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price for this place, we thought they'd either left a one off the front or a zero off the back," he says. But no, the ad was correct: cottages here still sell at a steep discount compared to the rest of the province. Buying into a club rather than picking up a piece of land bothers a lot of people and, with the ban on motor-boats, the lake is a little too quiet for others. And, of course, there's that lingering worry about the water and whether it will still be there the following spring.

Coming back from the community's westernmost edge, more than a kilometre from the clubhouse, we stop in on Grant Gustafson, who's the club president. If Round Lake serves as Saskatchewan's unofficial Museum of Summer—and consider it so designated—he's the head curator. Inside the cottage that he shares with his wife, there's almost nothing that wouldn't have been there before the lake dried up, and the impressive assembly has been arranged with more than a little attention. Any middle-aged guy who lives in Prince Albert might salvage a bedstead from the 1920s, but how many will ensure that the linen and the

curtains are period appropriate? An attached shed is piled with lots more vintage stuff, but Gustafson says that he manages—barely—to keep his acquisitions in check. "I've cleared out hoarders' places," he says with a tone familiar from war documentaries. "I don't want someone to have to do it for me."

Of course, a Museum of Summer would also need stories, and Round Lakers seem unusually inclined to record theirs. The walls of our old place were covered with jottings telling us that, for example, Oct. 3, 1943, was "a grand day," and that whoever opened up the cottage in 1962 was greeted by "36 bats!!!" Lorie Kellsey's mom kept a similar diary, on paper, while she herself thinks of her own years at the cottage in the novel form of an ersatz Chinese calendar. "The year the tree fell on the cabin." "The year Dad fell off the roof." "The year of the break-in." This last, incidentally, was surmised to have come at the hands of perpetrators aged approximately 14, as the only things they took were a giant sombrero and a bottle of oregano, maybe mistaking it for dried plant material of a different sort.

The family owns an assortment of paddle-powered watercraft and gets onto and into the lake often but, more than anything, Kellsey says, time spent at Round Lake is time spent enjoying nature. Some of that is reflected in her Chinese calendar: "The year of the bears." "The year the dog got sprayed twice." And another *annus horribilis*: "The year of the tent caterpillars." "It was like living in a haunted house," she says. "No leaves, just webs." But mostly, a life lived in nature is, as Thoreau would have it, good. "From birds to bears, snakes, frogs, spiders, and the usual rabbits and squirrels," she says, "there is always something to watch."

Of course, given the history, the one thing that everyone watches here is the water level. Kellsey is one of the few who remember the lake as it was during the dry years, but it's far from impossible that the water could disappear again. So it's worth asking her: would she still come? "Absolutely," she says. "It wouldn't make any difference at all." 🐸

Jim Sutherland wrote "John Gray Goes to the Cottage" in the July '14 issue.

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SOURCE GUIDE

Cabin Pressure {page 41}

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Picnics Are For Kids {page 80}

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Cottage Workshop {page 95}

Franklin Electric 14942745 sump pump: Home Hardware, homehardware.ca. **Zip-It drain tool:** Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. **Stikwood wood strips:** EuroCork Wall Design, eurocorkwalldesign.com. **Stihl Kombi-Engine multi-use tool:** en.stihl.ca. **Gardner Bender wire strippers:** Rona Home & Garden, rona.ca.



Colin & Justin style, p. 41

PAUL ORENSTEIN

THIS COTTAGE IS SUPER COOL

{Continued from page 60}

key features. “That had an impact on Howie, I think,” says Pariser. “It showed they were committed, had a similar value system, and understood our love for the outdoors.”

When it came to reconciling the two visions, the architects at Superkül weren’t fazed—they deal with conflicting demands all the time. In fact, Graham says, it’s all part of what makes the process fun. “Clients always come to us saying, ‘We don’t agree.’ In this case, we immediately turned our attention to Howie and asked ourselves, ‘What does he really want?’ And ultimately, he just wanted something warm and simple. It was very easy, then, to marry the traditional warmth of a log cabin with the clean lines Pauline wanted—the key ingredient was wood.”

With fsc-certified cedar covering nearly every wall of the cabin, both inside and out, the place has a distinct woodsy smell and a feeling of being wrapped in nature. At the same time, Graham points out, cedar easily lends itself to a cleaner, modern aesthetic if it’s cut and positioned in the right way. “There are no extra trims or superfluous details,” she says.

Still, as much as he appreciated the versatility of the material, Abrams was skeptical about other aspects of the plan, in particular the layout and the dimensions. Traditional cabins appeal to him because of their seminal place in northern Ontario culture and their distinctly rural aesthetic, but he’s also drawn to their intimacy and homey niches. “I really didn’t want something that looked like it belonged in the city,” says Abrams. What Superkül was proposing was a modern space with vaulted ceilings. “Those initial designs scared me a little,” he says. “I thought the main room was too narrow compared to the tall height of the ceilings, sort of like a bowling alley. It was hard to appreciate that this would one day be something cozy, something I’d want.” Still, his wife had faith that Superkül could tackle this dimensional issue and ultimately satisfy them both.


“I remember the architects asking us, ‘What’s your concept of comfort?’” says

Pariser, “and Howie said he liked feeling enclosed.” To create this sense of snugness, Graham and D’Elia proposed ceilings that slant up and down, in acute and obtuse angles, offering more vertical space in areas such as the open-concept kitchen-living-dining room and less in the bedrooms. They also included a hidden nook in that “bowling alley,” where Abrams could read, work, and daydream. “We tend to nap in that window seat by the kitchen,” he says. “I love it.”


As conversation and speculation finally turned into a physical structure, Abrams was able to relax, while Pariser got excited, if not a little anxious. With any building project, there is always a level of stress, and in this case the stress resulted from concrete floors that weren’t installed correctly, a fireplace that had to be moved from its original spot, and a slower-than-expected installation process for all of those meticulously laid cedar boards. But, eventually, Pariser learned to cede control to Superkül and to trust that Graham and D’Elia would handle everything that needed to be handled. “Meg and Andre both listened so deeply to what we were asking for,” she says, “and it became clear that our disparate visions would actually come together into a beautiful building.”

Completed in 2011, the cottage has officially been dubbed the Stealth Cabin, partly because the structure is so hidden from view, and partly because it’s untreated cedar exterior will fade to grey, allowing it to blend in even more with the surrounding forest. On sunny days, the flood of light pouring in makes the Stealth Cabin feel as though it’s completely open to nature and, on rainy days, there’s nothing more comforting than sipping a hot chocolate in one of Abrams’ little nooks. “Every time we come up, he gets happier and happier,” says Pariser. Best of all, when the couple finally does curl up in their double bed on a cool, damp night, they get the pleasure of falling asleep in a space that’s designed especially for them—and, one must admit, that’s substantially more appealing than a leaky yurt. 🐾

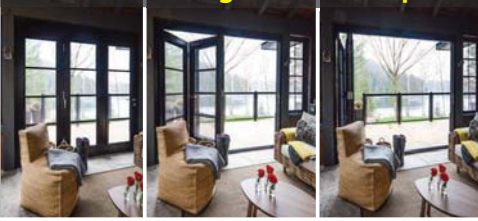
Vanessa Farquharson wrote about a Georgian Bay restoration in the Fall '14 issue. She regularly visits her family's cottage in Not-So-Wild Muskoka.




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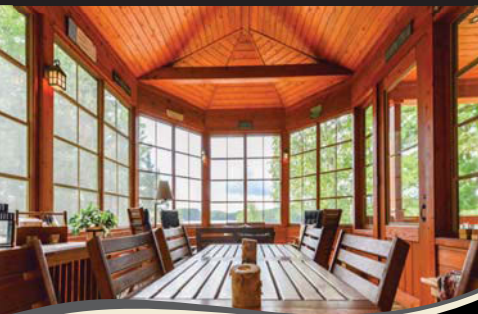


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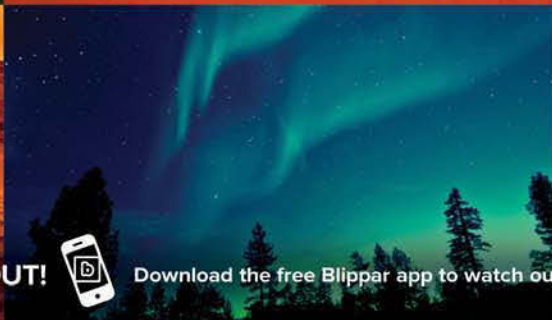
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Movers and shakers

By Tim Tiner

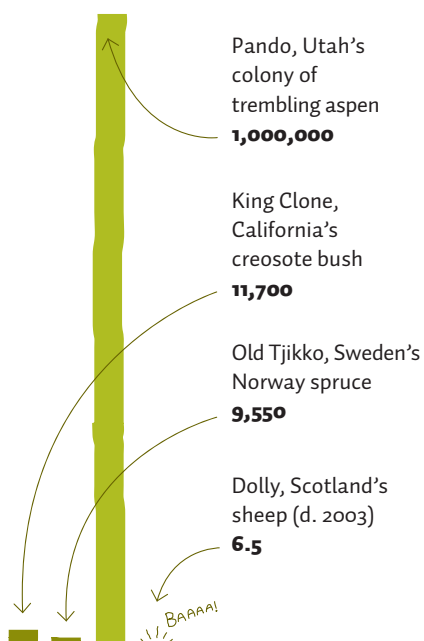
A modestly sized murmuring poplar abundant throughout Canada to the treeline, the trembling aspen is home and larder to a vast array of creatures. Its small, rounded crown thrives in full sun and furnishes one of early spring's first subtle flushes of overhead growth.

CATCHING RAYS The slender tree's smooth, thin, pale-green to off-white bark can photosynthesize at temperatures as low as -3°C , long before its leaves open. Even in midsummer, bark performs 10 to 15 per cent of total aspen photosynthesis. The bark's nutrients sustain beavers in winter, and help moose, deer, porcupines, hares, and mice get through the season. Aspen flower buds, formed during the previous growing season, are a winter staple of ruffed grouse.

FUZZY FLOWERS In the first warm days of spring, aspens unfurl dangling woolly tassels of tiny flowers. Packing about 20 per cent protein, these catkins feed

SEND IN THE CLONES!

Some of the longest-living organisms on earth are clones or clone colonies. The ages (in years) of a few famous plants—and one very famous animal:



a bevy of birds and herbivores. Many trees are male and only release wind-blown pollen, while about one-quarter are female, their catkins shedding tiny, downy seeds in May or June, which can waft several kilometres to germinate on open, sunny ground. Most aspens, however, are clones, sprouting profusely from the shallow roots of parent trees.

SYLVAN SALAD The aspen's fresh new leaves—they're more nutritious and open earlier than those of other trees—are the main course for treetop-feasting bears in May and June. Each autumn's superlatively rich, quick-mouldering litter also nurtures the evergreens and other shade-tolerant trees that eventually replace aspen stands.

HOME SWEET HOME Heart rot—it's evidenced by large, dark bracket fungi—commonly infects the fast-growing trees when they're still young. Sixty-year-old aspens are often riddled with cavities, many chiselled into the softened trunks by woodpeckers, creating high-occupancy apartment towers for saw-whet owls, chickadees, bats, flying squirrels, and other small tree-hole dwellers. 🦉



The original web site.

CATHERINE SAMUELS, COLLINGWOOD, ONT.

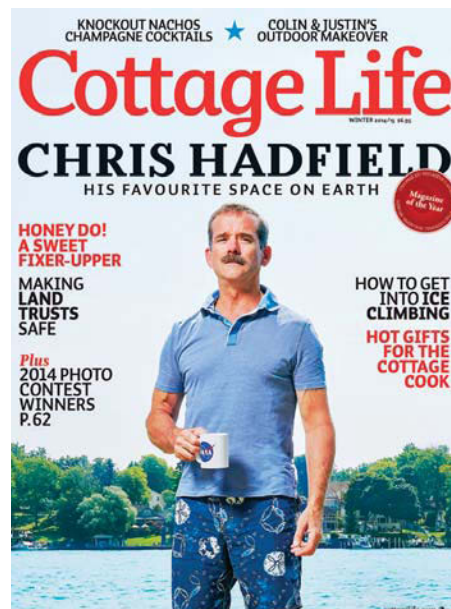
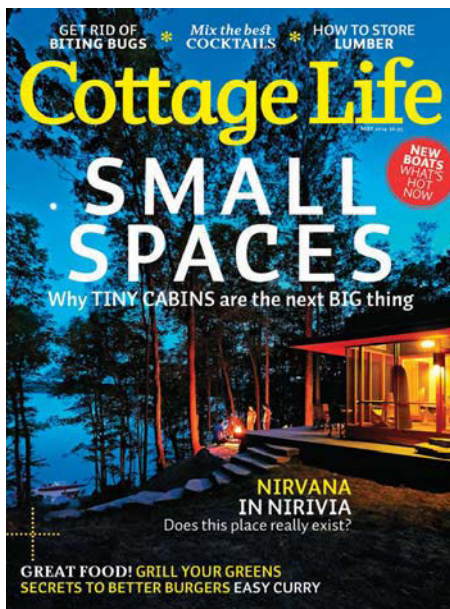


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THAW OUT

IN THE COTTAGE LIFE STORE



VINTAGE OLIVE GREEN HOODIE

Keep cozy while creating memories around the campfire in this vintage hoodie, embroidered with a felt loon and Cottage Life logo.

All sizes are unisex \$59⁹⁵

BROWN FULL ZIP HOODIE

Eco-friendly sweatshirt, made from bamboo and organic cotton. All sizes are unisex. So Soft! \$59⁹⁵



ULTRASUEDE BLANKET

Cold nights by the fire? Warm up under this warm faux-sheepskin blanket.

Available in tan, navy \$44⁹⁵

COTTAGE LIFE ONESIE

Dressing at the cottage is all about comfort, and what could be more comfortable than this adult onesie? Plus, its full-length zipper means you can keep the bugs off your face for that afternoon nap in the hammock



**SPRING
SALE!
NOW
\$59⁹⁵**

Order online at cottagelife.com/store

or call (416) 599-2000, ext. 0

A man in a red plaid shirt is smiling and tending to a black kamado-style grill. The grill is on a tripod stand and has a fire burning inside. To the left of the grill, there is a plate with several ears of corn. The scene is set outdoors by a body of water, with trees and a clear blue sky in the background.

SPRING

Cottage Life SHOW

OPEN HERE FOR
YOUR COTTAGE LIFE
SHOW COUPON

FIRE UP SUMMER!

Featuring Spring Cottage Life Show exhibitors



It's time to warm up for another season of chilling out at the cottage. Whether you've been in hibernation mode or embracing winter fun at the lake, there's something special about the lead up to springtime. Here at Cottage Life, we've been busy planning the 22nd annual Spring Cottage Life Show, and we can't wait for you to experience our 550 exhibitors, entertaining feature areas, and celebrity appearances.

Since our first show in 1994, we've watched the cottage industry adapt to your expanding needs by creating better and more inventive products year after year. The truth is, many of our exhibitors grew up on the same lakes as you, with dreams of enhancing cottage life with a new innovation or improved service. It's no surprise that this sort of passion and first-hand experience translates to superior-quality products and services.

The following pages in this special section profile many of those cottagers who dreamed big and turned good ideas into thriving businesses. It's an inspiration to read their stories and understand the passion they have for their work – and their love of cottaging.

All of us at the Cottage Life Shows hope that you enjoy these pages.

See you at the show!



WIN!

While at the show, check out our newest feature, The Ultimate Cottage Garage, presented by Gladiator® GarageWorks and enter to win a \$10,000 organization and storage system for your boathouse, toolshed, workshop or garage*.

*No purchase necessary. Contest open between March 26 and March 29, 2015 to Canadian resident attendees (excluding Quebec) of the Cottage Life Show at the Toronto International Centre, who are at least 18 years of age. Enter ballot at the Gladiator® GarageWorks booth at the Cottage Life Show. One entry per person. Prize consists of Gladiator® products valued at approximately \$10,000 (MSRP). In order to win, mathematical skill-testing question must be answered correctly. Odds of winning dependent upon total number of eligible entries received. Visit cottagelife.com/gladiatorgarageworkscontest for a complete list of prize package and full contest rules and regulations.

One step closer to the off-grid dream

Need new appliances at the cottage? Want to get off your generator? Choose state-of-the-art Unique Gas Products stoves, fridges and more – in matching pairs



Ah – cottage living at its finest. Ask Unique Gas about its selection of portable appliances, and its new solar-powered fridge-freezer appliances!

Cottage living is all about disconnecting from the complications of urban living, including reducing your dependency on the system. The freedom that comes with making off-grid choices also brings you one step closer to nature, reinforcing the deep, true, peaceful connection you relish. At the same time, you don't have to compromise your cottage living experience – functionally or aesthetically – when you upgrade to Unique Gas Products off-grid appliances.

That's because the Petersen brothers have dedicated themselves to bringing innovation and high-end design to off-grid living in the family business for decades. "We've had an off-grid island for 38 years, so we truly understand what 'off-gridders' need," says Steve Petersen. "At the heart of our heavy investment in research and development is a desire to enable off-grid living that alleviates our impact on the environment." Here are just a few of the ways their constantly growing line of

▼ A cast-iron single cooking surface makes food preparation – and clean up – much easier.



appliances – new cooktops are coming soon! – make cottage living better.

FEWER TRIPS INTO TOWN

Unique has developed the largest certified propane fridge in the world – the Unique 18 (18 cu/ft) with a 4.4 cu/ft freezer. This means you can store more food over longer stays at the cottage, and not lose any time interrupting your cottage living to make trips into town.

COST SAVINGS

Propane fridges are by far the cheapest form of off-grid refrigeration, says Petersen. In fact, Unique's fridges operate on one-half to one-third the propane of older brands, using approximately only 1.5 lbs of fuel per day. "Also, you don't have to contend with a noisy generator consuming fuels and running 24/7. A propane fridge runs silently."

HIGH-END, ELITE DESIGN

There's no reason why off-grid kitchens can't be envied by cottage weekend visitors. Unique is the only manufacturer to offer matching pairs of propane fridges and ranges, and in styles that enhance any kitchen design.

SAFETY ASSURED

The company also invested over \$500,000 in its direct vent propane fridges, which directly vent all combustible gases externally; or you can use Unique's safe carbon monoxide safety shut-off system on their other line of propane fridges.

ENERGY SAVINGS

Unique's off-grid propane ranges feature another greener, cost-effective innovation – they

Brought to you by

UNIQUE
OFF-GRID APPLIANCES

WHY UNIQUE GAS PRODUCTS?

- ✓ 34 off-grid appliances
- ✓ matching pairs
- ✓ CSA certified!
- ✓ high-end design
- ✓ superior energy efficiency
- ✓ safety

were designed without standing pilot flames. Instead, they feature a super efficient 9V battery ignition system. "Standing pilot lights waste a lot of fuel," explains Steve. This innovation means you don't have fuel burning inside the cottage all of the time.

"The philosophy behind what we do is simple: Remote living shouldn't have to be a compromise," adds Petersen.



▲ Unique's fridges – double the capacity of other off-grid refrigerator brands – feature brand new interior design with larger glass shelves and a single roll out crisper drawer.

CONTACT: uniqueoffgrid.com
(877) 427-2266

Be one with nature – choose cedar

There is no substitute in cottage country for the sensory beauty and practicality of cedar

That's right – cedar is not only a stunning and environmentally friendly wood choice, it's a practical one, both from a building and design point of view. "Real Cedar is an optimal wood for any project, including DIY projects, because it's lightweight, and resistant to decay," says Paul Mackie a.k.a. Mr. Cedar, a recognized cedar expert and western area manager for the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association, based in Vancouver, B.C.

"We love cedar because it is a gorgeous traditional wood, rich in heritage, and therefore seamless with nature. That's saying nothing about its incredible olfactory atmosphere," add design duo Colin and Justin of Colin and Justin's *Cabin Pressure* on Cottage Life TV, now in its second season. They are referring to the profoundly satisfying scent cedar emits, which is truly nature-inspired. Of course, when it comes to updating your property, especially a cottage property, there are many more reasons to choose Real Cedar.



Why Knotty Cedar Is "In"

Opting for knotty cedar is a matter of personal preference, but its one-of-a-kind, natural beauty is growing in popularity, especially with cottagers. "We're seeing a lot more contemporary building designs in cottage country that are nicely counterbalanced with an authentic cabin look in knotty cedar," say Colin and Justin. Besides that, clear grades of cedar tend to be more expensive, whereas the knotty cedar has warmth and casual charm that costs less.



"We want a wood that is easily transported across a lake and works for a curved railing."

► Western Red Cedar is a structurally solid, sturdy wood, yet incredibly lightweight, certainly compared to other options, thanks to its low

density, says Mackie. So it's easy to build with cedar on remote or water bound cottages. And its wide range of lumber dimensions, surface textures and grades make it ideal for projects with unusual dimensions. For example, Colin and Justin recently had a cottage hot tub made out of cedar.

BONUS Because of cedar's unique wood composition, it can be cut easily and shaped into any applications – yes, even curves. But it also lies flat and straight, so it is easy to fit in place. "That makes it ideal for DIY projects," adds Mackie.



"The last thing I want is a high-maintenance deck or dock, never mind siding!"

► One of the biggest misconceptions about Real Cedar is that it requires a lot of upkeep. In fact, study after study shows that Western Red Cedar is the best

Above: Architect: Ana Sandrin & Howard Leung. Photo: Ana Sandrin. Far left: Architect: superkul. Photo: Shai Gil Photography. Left: Courtesy of The Sains Corporation

"We love cedar because it is a gorgeous traditional wood, rich in heritage, and therefore seamless with nature. It adds a real Canadian pedigree to your home." — Colin & Justin

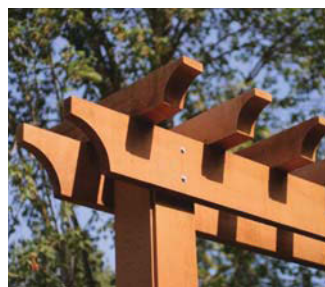


Did you know that cedar's unique aroma comes from the same compounds that help preserve it?

► Naturally occurring thujaplicins in its heartwood not only emit the scent, but resist moisture, and are repellent to decay-causing fungi and insects. That means less work for you at the cottage.

wood substrate to hold primer and paint. Mackie points out that cedar will hold a semi-transparent for two to four years; semi-solid for five years; and solid stains for six to eight years.

BONUS Cottagers like Colin and Justin are increasingly opting to leave cedar unfinished. "It's such an incredible wood genus, because its colours and hue change so dramatically over time. We just adore the grey patina it takes on." Keep in mind the purist look isn't an option with other lumber types that need to be sealed or painted to protect against elements.



"Sure, but will cedar stand up to cottage-country elements?"

► Absolutely. Western Red Cedar actually has a very low shrinkage factor, and is superior to all other coniferous woods in its resistance to warping, twisting and checking. If you're

sizing up alternatives, remember Real Cedar is also naturally resistant to rot, decay and insect attacks, whereas composite materials, for example, can't fend off mildew, or be restored after inevitable fading from the sun's UV rays.

BONUS Need new siding? Consider the cost savings for cooling in summer and heating in winter of Real Cedar. Thanks to its low density, cedar is the best thermal insulator among other softwood species, and far superior to brick.



"We cherish and respect the outdoors – and I need a building material that represents that."

► Independent studies show that natural wood outperforms synthetic building products in every way. "No other building material has as small an environmental footprint as cedar," says Mackie. That's partly because wood products require much less energy to produce and to transport (thanks to its low weight). Finally, cedar removes greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, whereas other building materials emit them, plus, cedar is renewable and biodegradable.

Brought to you by



BONUS More than 85 per cent of timberland in British Columbia – where most Western Red Cedar comes from – is certified by internationally recognized, independent forest certification agencies.



"I need a building material that will blend in with the cottage landscape and make a lasting impression."

► There are multiple reasons why cedar is designers' (and builders') favourite wood, in addition to the fact it smells great and feels wonderful under bare feet. Simply, no other material has the beauty and warmth of cedar. When was the last time you heard a neighbour boast about a synthetic deck? "For us, it's really a heritage timber," explain Colin and Justin. "It counterbalances modern building trends we're seeing in cottages and brings a real Canadiana pedigree to your home."

BONUS Western Red Cedar's superbly rich tonal properties blend seamlessly with outdoor sanctuaries, embolden traditional decor or provoke cutting-edge architectures. Choose a clear cedar for a clean finish, or try the new popular knotty cedar for a more natural look.

CONTACT: realcedar.com

Award-winning home building

Stoney Lake Homes & Cottages offers a "win-win" experience for customers

Brought to you by



With six awards from a local chapter of the Canadian Home Builders' Association and more than 25 customer testimonials, Stoney Lake Homes & Cottages has earned a reputation for its quality built homes, cottages and renovations.

Its "open-book" billing also differentiates the 10-year-old Lakefield-based builder, which charges a percentage-based management fee on projects. That means no hidden

mark-ups – customers pocket the savings on any builders' discounts on building materials. Bids made by sub-contractors are also shared, so customers can be assured they're getting the best price.

"We know what it's like having questions like, 'Did I get a fair shake on this?' run through your mind," explains owner Henry Schmied. "We remove that stress by being completely transparent."

SHOW STOPPER

► Fill out a ballot at the Spring Cottage Life Show for your chance to win \$3,000 off of blueprints on your next project with Stoney Lake Homes & Cottages.

CONTACT: stoneylakehomesandcottages.ca | (705) 768-7070

FENDOCKS now available in colour!

FENDOCK is now anodizing docks to give cottagers colour choices in aluminum

Brought to you by



Canada's first aluminum dock manufacturer now offers a brand new first for cottagers: its durable, up-to-40' long, bolted, DIY docks in two more colour choices – black or light bronze.

"Anodizing is a process that thickens and toughens the naturally occurring protective oxide in aluminum," explains Greg Westwell, owner of the Ottawa-based family business, founded in 1955. The resulting

finish – available in black and light bronze – does not chip or peel and is UV stabilized. FENDOCK also features two new accessories this year:

► **Kayak stabilizer** This innovative, handy unit can be easily bolted to one side of an existing FENDOCK truss dock to assist kayakers with getting in and out.
► **Floating Dock Wheel Kits** Wheels will assist cottagers in removing heavy floating docks from the water.

FENDOCK Truss, Framed and Floating docks are all bolted systems, easily shipped (knocked down) and assembled on site (no special tools required!).

CONTACT: fendock.com
(888) 336-3625

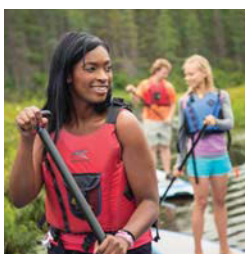
Paddlers: gain knowledge, improve your skills, have more fun!

Get more out of your lake activities and be safe out on the water with Paddle Canada's skills and instructor training courses

Brought to you by



Paddle Canada sets the certification standard for recreational canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard instruction in Canada.



You wouldn't step out onto a tennis court without some basic lessons in how to play. So why would you hop into that canoe, or head out with a paddleboard without some training? "The amount of fun you're capable of having on the lake depends on your confidence. And confidence hinges on skill," says Graham

Ketcheson, executive director of Paddle Canada.

Skills courses in canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding need not take up more than a day of your weekend. "And the pay off in pleasure is worth it," adds Ketcheson, who points out how a simple change in posture, for example, can vastly improve how much fun you have doing

your favourite human-propelled water sport.

CANOE SMARTER

Whether you love quiet water-solo paddling or you're planning a big canoe trip, Paddle Canada has helpful courses for beginners, intermediate and advanced canoers. Beginner canoers will gain precise control of quiet water routines; advanced courses build on new skills and maneuvers.

PADDLEBOARD WITH EASE

Stand-up paddleboarding is hugely popular, however there are technical ways to kneel, stand up, and take strokes that make paddleboarding so much more enjoyable, says Ketcheson.

More advanced courses teach pivot turns, wave surfing and more. Of course, safety underscores all the lessons.

Paddle Canada also offers skills and instructor training in river and sea kayaking, as well as one-hour dry land safety primers (at your cottage!) through partner Paddle Smart. Find a course near you online at paddlecanada.com.

Become a member!

Paddle Canada doesn't just educate, it helps protect and preserve Canada's heritage waterways and wilderness as well as promotes safe and environmental paddling! Ask about membership at the Cottage Life Show.

CONTACT: paddlecanada.com

Expand your seasonal living space at the cottage – easy

WeatherMaster® Window, Door and Enclosure Systems give you the feeling of a screened room with comfort of an enclosed porch



Custom made for every space! WeatherMaster® Single 4-Vent, 8-Vent or 12-Vent and Horizontal Window Systems will fit your openings, eliminating the need for additional framing. The Sunspace Vertical 4-Track Entry Door is the ideal for sunroom and porch enclosures.

Some of the best days at the cottage are in early spring or late fall when the birds begin singing and the crisp breeze rustles leaves to the ground. You long for a cozy extra living space on the porch or the deck – one where you don't have to invest in a full-blown renovation – so you can get more out of your cottage.

“Lives change when cottagers discover WeatherMaster® vertical stacking window and door systems,” says Bob Newnham, director of marketing and branding at Sunspace Sunrooms in Newcastle, Ont. “Families spend more time in their new practical living

spaces in the spring and fall. And, of course, the enclosures are ideal for summer days when you want to enjoy the outdoors without UV or bugs,” he adds.

Sunspace owners Steven Hunt and Helen Kok designed the system to be simple, fully customizable and aesthetically suitable for every style of cottage. “We’ve never come across a situation, from trapezoid and fixed transom windows, or a style, from stone to post and beam, that we couldn’t create a customized WeatherMaster® solution for,” says Newnham.

A dealer network of 150-strong is available to help cottagers design the right solution for their space, saving them the headaches of a DIY job or the cost of high-end alternatives. The custom aluminum-extrusion system, with shutter- and

fog-proof single-glazed memory vinyl, is manufactured locally out of Newcastle, Ont. within four to five weeks. Sunspace dealers will assist cottagers through to install.

Thanks to unbeatable versatility, you’ll spot Sunspace’s WeatherMaster® windows and doors everywhere including golf courses. Design duo Colin & Justin just created an addition at their own cottage that featured Sunspace’s latest innovation – the WeatherMaster® Plus Stacking Door System (see right). “We all want to get the most from the nature,” says Newnham. “Sunspace is dedicated to giving people control over the less than desirable elements so they maximize their enjoyment.”

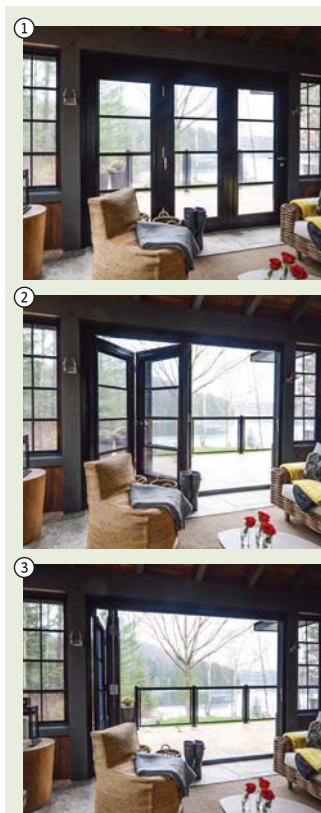
CONTACT: sunspacesunrooms.com | (800) 755-3365

Brought to you by



Instant Benefits!

- ✓ **Effortless** stacking and folding for 75% to 100% ventilation
- ✓ **Infinitely adjustable**, stack up, stack down, bunch in the middle
- ✓ **Maintenance free** ViewFlex Vinyl glazing (safer than glass!)
- ✓ **Full fiberglass** mesh screen
- ✓ **Custom made** to fit in openings elegantly



Introducing WeatherMaster® Plus Stacking Door System

The new WeatherMaster® Plus Door folds three ways to open up a space to 100% ventilation in seconds. Ask for a demo at the show booth!

SHOW STOPPER

► Ask about special pricing at the show booth; where you'll also be put in touch with an authorized cottage country dealer.

Cottage water simplified!

"It's what we do!" says Jim Garland at 4EverGreen Water Systems in Barrie

Brought to you by



SHOW STOPPER

► It's back! Water System "Show Special" Save \$300 (ask for details).

providing exceptional customer service – guaranteed! "Be sure to check out our innovative and eco-friendly water systems," adds Garland. For example, the Ultimate Intake Filter System provides unlimited filtered water and never needs service. And the Safe Water System produces safe cottage water in every tap all the time. "Be sure to stop the booth and say hello," says Garland, who also encourages cottagers to check out the many reviews posted at safedrinkingwater.ca.

CONTACT: safedrinkingwater.ca
(705) 321-5566

In addition to custom building, installing and maintaining cottage water systems, 4EverGreen Water Systems is available 24/7 to provide friendly, year-round service throughout cottage country to both road and water access cottages. Estimates are always free.

"At 4EverGreen Water Systems, we know that it's all about spending quality time at the cottage with family and friends," says Garland. "A reliable cottage water system plays a very important part in making sure every visit to your cottage is a relaxing and enjoyable experience."

That's why 4EverGreen's focus is on building the very best cottage water systems and

Self-propelled and eco-friendly

Aqua Cycle's Pontoon Paddle Boats are fun for the whole family

Brought to you by



Pontoon paddle boats are a hassle- and fuel-free way to exercise and enjoy the lake for years to come. Once you buy one, you'll never spend another penny, says Linda Dionne co-owner of Aqua Cycle Canada (a division of Hosking Motorsports) based in Belleville, Ont.

Linda and her husband Rob Hosking discovered the care-free joy of Aqua Cycle Pontoon paddle boats when they bought one for his mother after she had a knee operation. "Now, every year she's out there as soon as the ice melts," says Linda.

SHOW STOPPER

► Save \$200 on accessories when purchasing a paddle boat at the show.



A front platform is perfect for fishing!

Aqua Cycle paddle boats do not get sold, they get handed down to the next generation. Here's why:

- Walk on and off, no climbing in and out
- Easy to clean and maintain
- No swamping, tipping or bailing
- Manufactured for over 40 years with safety in mind.

CONTACT: hoskingmotorsports.com
(613) 961-1777

Your cottage country landscaping experts

Kawartha Lakes Landscaping specializes in low-maintenance, natural and beautiful cottage design solutions

Brought to you by



Book it in low-season! Kawartha Lakes Landscaping tackles projects year-round.

"We love what we do, and that shows in the attention to detail we give projects, and the lengths we go to to please customers," says Kingsbury of their Peterborough, Ont.-based business.

Customers are also thrilled because the duo

commits to the original estimate, and spends a lot of time working closely with cottage owners on design. "We want to make sure we understand how a family uses their cottage property, and ensure the design optimizes the use of the

property." Here are few more reasons why Kawartha Lakes Landscaping is the right choice for your next outdoor landscaping project.

STEEP GRADES, WATER EROSION

The team are experts in developing steep-grade durable, functional and attractive solutions to waterfront access. "We worked with a client in Bancroft recently on a bad slope. Now, the stunning natural flagstone pathway provides smooth access to a patio and lounge spot at the water's edge and quadrupled the usability of his property." The team also

has experience obtaining the appropriate permits for erosion- or water-related landscaping construction.

MINIMAL MAINTENANCE

"We respect the fact that cottagers want to keep their landscaping natural," says Kingsbury. That's why Kawartha's native plant selections, and hardscaping materials, including ground materials and deck and fencing, are all suited to enhancing the natural look, while improving cottage living. "We understand you don't want to worry about upkeep. We're all about maximizing the enjoyment of your property."

CONTACT: kawarthalakeslandscaping.com | (888) 927-2780

Get better organized at the cottage!

Gladiator® GarageWorks customizable storage solutions allow you to reclaim cluttered spaces and get back to the activities you love the most

Brought to you by



Smart storage is as much a priority at the cottage as good food, decent weather and lots of R&R. When you lack nicely compartmentalized cabinets and tidy wall organization units, you face the possibility of losing precious weekend hours searching for items you need to have fun, like that canoe oar, or grappling with untidy spaces, like your workshop.

But that's not all: Gladiator® GarageWorks high-quality, modular and versatile storage solutions enhance the hobbies you love. "You really can customize your dream space," says Janice Ryder, senior manager of Gladiator® GarageWorks at Whirlpool Canada. "All our components are interchangeable, so pieces always fit together. Or, if you're not sure where to begin, we have starter kits that you can build on." Here are a few examples of Gladiator® organization and storage solutions. ►

More Gladiator® GarageWorks benefits!

► Quality that's guaranteed.

Gladiator brand offers warranties just as strong as their gear. Most products are backed by a 10-year limited warranty. Select models are backed with a lifetime limited warranty. Visit GladiatorGarageWorks.ca for warranty details.

► Options for every budget.

From wall systems to cabinets, and flooring to appliances, Gladiator® products offer solutions for every garage and budget.

► **Incredible versatility.** You can add to or mix and match the modular components any way you want. The Gladiator® organization and storage system grows with you to fit your life and style.

CONTACT: gladiatorgarageworks.ca



For the avid gardener

Keep tools within reach, and store cumbersome equipment like wheelbarrows out of the way using Gladiator® GearWall® panels.



For the sports enthusiast

House loose items in mesh bags and line up outdoor shoes on a wire shoe rack so you're ready to go have fun in a jiffy.



For the do-it-yourselfer

Complete your cottage garage workshop with the Chillerator® Garage Refrigerator. It is built to stand up to the extreme heat and cold of most harsh garage environments. Featuring 14 cu. ft. of refrigeration space and 5 cu. ft. freezer space, a reversible door swing and can caddies, the Chillerator® refrigerator will help keep stored food at just the right temperature all year round!

*No purchase necessary. Contest open between March 26 and March 29, 2015 to Canadian resident attendees (excluding Quebec) of the Cottage Life Show at the Toronto International Centre, who are at least 18 years of age. Enter ballot at the Gladiator® GarageWorks booth at the Cottage Life Show. One entry per person. Prize consists of Gladiator® products valued at approximately \$10,000 (MSRP). In order to win, mathematical skill-testing question must be answered correctly. Odds of winning dependent upon total number of eligible entries received. Visit cottagelife.com/gladiatorgarageworkscontest for a complete list of prize package and full contest rules and regulations.

Best barbecues on the earth!

The jury is in. When it comes to cooking performance and flavour enhancement, Broil King® barbecues are five-star

Cooking outdoors is one of the great cottage traditions and pleasures. Dining on juicy, intensely flavourful, and perfectly grilled meat, however, can be hit or miss. “The end result of your grilling efforts actually hinges on the design of your grill,” says Ted Mealing, vice-president of marketing at Broil King’s Waterloo, Ont. headquarters. “You want the right components and to be able to vapourize all the food juices to get that unmistakable barbecue flavour. Broil King® barbecues ensure you cook like a pro.” But don’t take his word for it – hundreds of satisfied customers from across North America will tell you why they love Broil King® barbecues the best (online at broilkingbbq.com). Here’s just a sample of what they have to say.

“I am 72 years old and have to say, this is the finest grill I have ever owned or used”



Brought to you by

Broil King®
Great Barbecues Every Time

“IT KEEPS ALL THE JUICES FLOWIN’!”

BBQ Junkie, Gravenhurst, ON

► Countless reviews contain similar sentiments. Take Backyard Chef from Sherwood Park, Alta. “Salmon has been nice and moist, ribs delicious, and chicken breasts remain nice and moist too. Great grill!” Rusty48 from Warwick, RI, writes, “I can definitely see a difference in how the food tastes.” So what’s behind these great flavour results?

The Broil King® Advantage

Heat retention is the key to locking in food’s flavour. That’s why Broil King®’s closed-bottom cook box and its second hot surface within – the Flav-R-Wave® – ensure every last dripping gets vapourized, imparting a smoky flavour to food.

“AWESOME HEAT! I CAN FILL THE WHOLE GRILL AND EVERYTHING COOKS EVENLY!”

Gino17, Hamilton, ON

► One common theme among reviewers is Broil King®’s even heat distribution. “Very good heat balance,” writes Tsingdaoman in Concord, NC. In Michigan, StanMan writes, “Soooo easy to control the heat and know how soon the meat will be done.” So why don’t customers have to watch food on a Broil King® grill?

The Broil King® Advantage

Even heat flow is assured by Dual-Tube™ burners with ports on each side that provide twice the flame coverage and heat distribution. Plus, Linear-Flow™ valves provide a full 180-turn, which allows you to set your grill to the precise temperature for searing, roasting or slow cooking.

“I LOVE THE CAST-IRON COOKING GRIDS!”

ChefWally, Renfrew, ON

► Wesley in Chapel, FL, adds, “The reversible grilling surface is a great innovation! It lets you mark steaks like a professional.” Fans of Broil King® are unanimous in this benefit – so why do the grills produce restaurant quality sear marks?

The Broil King® Advantage

Reversible, heavy-duty cast iron grates (available in heavy stainless steel, too) provide 100 per cent sear zone. That means the steak sizzles when it hits the grill – a sure sign flavour’s being locked into the meat. Also, one side of the Broil King® grate is pointed in a “V”, guaranteeing steakhouse sear marks.

“SOLID CANADIAN BUILT BBQ!”

Brantford, ON

► “Nice addition to the cottage!” says one cottager in Muskoka. “I am 72-years-old and have to say this is the finest grill I have ever owned or used,” proclaims Grizbear13 from Western Mass. So what’s all the love about – beyond great cooking performance?

The Broil King® Advantage

All Broil King® gas grills are North American made and designed for performance. The key components – burners, Flav-R-Wave®, and grids – work as a cooking system to vapourize the food juices, creating great barbecue flavour, every time.

SHOW STOPPER

► Don’t miss cooking show demonstrations at the Spring Cottage Life Show by grilling expert Naz Cavallaro, including handy BBQ tips!

CONTACT: broilkingbbq.com

Safe water naturally

ActiDes innovative water disinfection systems are so safe and effective, they are also used in baby food production

ActiDes may be a new name to Canadians, but it's a household one in Germany where its water disinfection systems have been used since 2004 in a variety of application areas from kindergartens to industrial use, including a new Nestlé baby food manufacturing facility. Now, the outstanding German engineering is also available in a system ideal

ACTIDES EXCLUSIVE PROS

- ✓ Natural disinfection agent
- ✓ Powerful and effective
- ✓ Highest purity – made in Germany
- ✓ Point of entry system
- ✓ No aggressive by-products
- ✓ Environmentally- friendly
- ✓ Competitive price

for cottages, especially those dependent on lake or well water.

"Our EasyDos system for cottages is the best water disinfection solution on the market because it's compact and nearly maintenance free," says president Hardy Falkenhagen, who brought it to Canada last year and received the NSF certification for ActiDes blue, the agent that makes water potable.

CLEANS THROUGH WATER PIPES

ActiDes relies on extremely minute yet very potent amounts of a natural disinfectant called hypochlorous acid (HOCl) – the same agent produced by the human body to fight infections – to kill all germs and bacteria,

and prevent waterborne diseases such as E.Coli, Legionella. This approach sets it apart from all other disinfection systems:

► No aggressive by-products

Because HOCl in ActiDes blue is manufactured in Germany under the highest purity and quality standards, only a tiny amount is needed to do the job without any harmful by-products.

► ActiDes blue travels with the water

Most water disinfection systems, including UV light, work only once at point of exposure, usually point of exit. ActiDes blue instead travels through water pipes from point of entry and kills all germs and

bacteria along the way so every tap delivers drinkable water.

► Ease of use reduces costs

Only the addition of ActiDes blue is required when the disinfection agent runs low. "It's as simple as filling up your car with gas," says the owner. The overall costs are competitive, and you'll save on operating costs because the system runs on demand.

Ask about the ActiDes dedicated installation service and calibration with every system.

SHOW STOPPER

► Order a system at the show and secure a 10% discount!

CONTACT: actides.ca
(905) 709-9127

Cottage-perfect furniture and decor

Every item you'll find at the Teak Barn is designed to enhance cottage living

Sectionals in a variety of configurations. Coffee tables with different tabletops including granite, aluminum and tempered glass. Extra thick fade- and mold-resistant cushions using only Sunbrella fabrics. Ottomans that angle flat to double up as extra seating. To be sure, superior cottage living requires furnishings crafted with consideration toward comfort, style, durability and function, according to Brad and Lisa Regan, the husband-wife owners of Teak Barn.

That's why the duo carefully choose every item on display throughout 5,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor showrooms, located in the picturesque countryside just outside Erin,



Don't miss the all-weather sectional that forms a cozy circle around the fire pit – on display at the Cottage Life Show!

Ont. "Every piece of furniture and decor is uniquely suitable for cottagers," says Lisa.

VERSATILE FURNITURE

Don't let the name fool you. The Teak Barn – now celebrating nine years in business – features a wide array of all-weather

wicker and cast aluminum as well as quality teak outdoor living furniture. "We recognize every cottager has different needs, which is why we choose pieces to suit every situation, many with added functionality," explains Brad. For example, expandable dining tables,

reclining chairs and benches that are wonderful on their own or comfortable for eating at the table. "Even our muskoka chairs fold up," adds Brad.

EASY COTTAGE SHOPPING

Visitors to the Teak Barn will also be delighted with its newly expanded cottage decor, including outdoor rugs, fun and stylish cottage table accents, locally made torches, one-of-a-kind local metal sculpture, artwork and more. "We're devoted to sourcing and providing quality solutions that provide a great experience for living in cottage country," says Lisa.

CONTACT: teakbarn.ca
(519) 833-9972

The ultimate cottage country home design firm

Discovery Dream Homes really puts the 'discovery' in the design experience.

No matter your vision – glass and corrugated steel or rustic log – they'll bring it to life



The definition of “discovery” is finding something unexpectedly in the course of a search. Those who embark on a home building journey with Discovery Dream Homes do find something they may not have anticipated, and it’s the difference that sets the popular home builder apart from other cottage-country builders: dream design.

“We’re not just a manufacturer of custom log and timber frame homes, although we’ve been setting industry standards for 25 years,” says Ray King, owner of the Peterborough, Ont.-based design and build company. “We are an outstanding custom designer, from one-of-a-kind cabanas to century home renovations, to year-round

homes and rustic cottages, we do it all.” The Discovery Dream Home approach simply takes the guess work out of the design, explains King. “We’ll design, and manufacture and supply the materials for *any* style of dream home you want.”

THE DESIGN DIFFERENCE

King explains that true custom

home designs hinges on developing personalized living solutions for families. That’s why Discovery’s team of professional consultants, award-winning designers and highly skilled craftsman are experts at asking the right questions, listening closely, and, ultimately, embodying what you want in your new home – functionally and aesthetically.

Corrugated steel flat roofs. Open floor plan. Thirty-foot glass curtain walls. Even a castle outfitted with turrets. “Nothing is out of reach for the Discovery

Dream Team who pride themselves on building a knowledge-sharing relationship with each customer,” adds King. Here’s how Discovery stands apart.

► Unlimited consultations

From the initial concept, the design team meets you as many times as necessary throughout the entire process, constantly listening and making modifications to optimize your goals. “The architectural details we design in allow for flexibility ensuring your home is true reflection of you,” says King. “As

“Corrugated steel flat roofs. Open floor plan. Thirty-foot glass curtain walls. Even a castle outfitted with turrets! Nothing is out of reach for the Discovery Dream Team!”



well, we make use of all kinds of materials for homes that are not only unique, but built to last for generations to come.”

› **Empowering technology** Not only do you get a set of sketches to review, Discovery produces a 3D virtual walk-through,

presented in its offices, or in the comfort of your home (in a live online meeting). The 3D experience is so detailed it includes interior furnishings and finish. “You will be able to stand in your new great room, and look up at your vaulted ceilings lined in timbers, or walk through

your fully equipped gourmet kitchen,” says King. You’ll watch design change requests happen right before you, and discover how modifications improve the original design, or find a better way to achieve the same goal. “It’s interactive design at its best.”

Today there are a lot of options for building a cottage. “If you’re looking for a custom building experience that provides endless unexpected positives, you’re looking for Discovery Dream Homes,” says King.

BUILDING INNOVATION EQUALS LIFE-LONG SAVINGS

Did you know that Discovery Dream Homes features some of the premier log home systems in the industry, ensuring draft protection and high energy efficiency? Now, it has applied that expertise to sustainable building of contemporary home design. Ask about its brand new panel machine – it produces extreme energy-efficient insulated wall panels – up to R80!

Brought to you by



Discover the Difference

“Don’t waste your money on a high-priced architect. The team at Discovery will work with you to develop the design you want, and you will feel great about it for years to come.”

— Jack from
Northumberland Hills

“I appreciate the wonderful way that you and your design team have been involved in this project. You listened to us very well, had infinite patience with our seemingly endless questions, told us what was possible and not possible with great clarity, and helped us dream our Discovery Dream Home log addition.”

— Lawrence and Joy
from Haliburton

“The Discovery team worked on our design. I think we had three different cottages throughout the total process. Things would get changed due to township regulations and so on. After a lot of patience and cooperation, the team created the final design and we were on our way. It’s all about details, and Discovery shines in this area. We even took our old paint cans into Discovery so they could match our wood siding with the colours of our “outhouse”. And the colours are perfect.”

— Nicki and Bill in
Cranberry Lake

CONTACT: discoverydreamhomes.com
(866) 395-5647

The ultimate summer camp experience

Kids choose from more than 50 activities at the remarkable Muskoka Woods

Brought to you by



It's not an overstatement to suggest the highly reputed 35-year-old Muskoka Woods delivers the best guest experiences in the business. With 2,800 feet of stunning frontage on Lake Rousseau, 1,000 wooded acres, quality overnight accommodations, a six-lane water slide and more than 50 activities on the go – parents will have a hard time dragging kids away. “Besides emphasizing fun, our camp really aims to empower kids,” explains Richelle Nemeth, Director of Sales and Marketing. “Kids choose the activities they want,

Debuting day camps!

Ask about the 16 Muskoka Woods day camps coming to the GTA.



while the counsellors focus on confidence-building and leadership skills.” All 600 kids (ages 7 to 17) who are in attendance at any given time are carefully monitored by counsellors. “Many of our campers make lifetime friendships.”

CONTACT: muskokawoods.com
(416) 495 6960

Window shades, screens, shutters and more!

Window Quilt (Muskoka) offers an array of cottage living solutions

Brought to you by



For 26 years, John Krynicki has specialized in transforming windows, sunrooms and outdoor living areas into inviting spaces – across Muskoka, Parry Sound and Haliburton – with premium, energy efficient, innovative and stylish window and door treatments.

“We offer a no-obligation on-site consultation, and will recommend a solution that works with your budget,” says Krynicki.

INDOOR SOLUTIONS

Manual and motorized window and door treatments are available from leading brands including Hunter Douglas, Altex/Sunproject and Phantom.



The Pergotenda Kubo provides full shade and rain protection

OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS

Outdoor living spaces can be cozy, shaded, dry and bug-free thanks to Window Quilt's Pergotenda retractable canopies from OLS Canada. This Kubo model (above) provides full shade and rain protection.

CONTACT: windowquiltmuskoka.com
(800) 561-1351

How to protect your cottage from wildfire

FireSmart your property to reduce damage – plus it helps out Ontario forest fire fighters in an emergency

Brought to you by



Wildfire is a natural phenomenon. On average, Ontario experiences over 1,200 wildland fires each year. Annually, wildfire consumes over 200,000 hectares of forested land. “Sometimes families have been evacuated from their communities, and homes and cottages have been destroyed,” says Sarah Allen, Regional Fire Advisor, Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Building a new cottage?

Go to ontario.ca/firesmart to find more FireSmart tips such as building materials, like metal or tile roofing, tempered glass windows, brick or stucco walls.

If your cottage is near a forested area, sooner or later you may have to contend with the threat of wildfire. “Awareness and understanding of the risks and hazards in and around your home and property, reducing these risks and hazards by applying FireSmart principles, and being prepared in the event of a wildfire emergency can ultimately be your best defence,” says Allen. Here are some more tips:

The first 10 metres of space around your home is the most critical area to FireSmart.

- Thin or prune any shrubs and trees, and remove deadfall or woodpiles.
- Remove branches that

overhang the roof, and clean debris from gutters.

- Make sure wood is stored a safe distance from buildings.
- Decks should be screened in and crawl spaces enclosed with fire-resistant material.

Next, FireSmart 10 to 30 metres out from your home.

- Reduce the amount of forest debris on the ground.
- Ensure surrounding buildings are relatively free of combustible materials.
- Keep fencing away from the house or cottage.
- Prune trees up to 2 m to create vertical separation from the ground; thin the trees to create space between the crowns.

“Properly preparing your



home and property does not guarantee that you will not incur fire damage,” says Allen, adding, “rather the work you do can reduce the fire danger greatly, slow the spread of a fire and provide valuable time for fire crews to respond and suppress a fire when it occurs.”

CONTACT: ontario.ca/firesmart

The cottage shopping destination

Attention all cottage decor lovers: Simply Cottage has 33,000 square feet of cottage interior furnishings – plus custom woodworking, slipcovers, design help and more!

Brought to you by

Simply Cottage

It's a testament to the Simply Cottage experience that not only do first-time customers become lifetime customers – they end up shopping in the renovated Muskoka Foundry Building in Bracerbridge for their Toronto homes as well as their cottages. The 33,000 square foot destination, open seven days a week, has even attracted the attention of TV shows, who have filmed in the unique store.

It's the kind of place where designers and cottagers shop alike, ordering one-of-a-kind pieces, like a custom-made dining tables made on-site in the workshop, or a brand new slip-covered sofa, all the while watched over by retro bicycles hang down from the ceiling, and stepping around unusual items like an antique car. "We like to decorate with both an antique nostalgic theme and urban cottage look," explains Melloney McNabb.

The McNabbs (Melloney and husband Jerry) started the business years ago when they used to buy and sell cottages and couldn't find one place to shop to dress them up for showings. "I've always collected unusual, funky, vintage stuff," says Melloney. "But I also like more traditional pieces. A constant here is a Canadiana theme," she adds. No matter what you need, candles, antique fishing rods for the wall, custom metal wall art, you're likely to find it at Simply Cottage. But the destination specializes in a few key areas, too.

CUSTOM WOODWORKING

Custom kitchen cabinetry. Wooden countertops for kitchens and bathroom vanities. Custom designed and crafted wood knobs. Live-edge dining

tables. Coffee tables. You name it, Simply Cottage's on-site woodworking studio and workshop can built it for you from reclaimed barn boards or new wood.

SLIPCOVERED FURNITURE

Simply Cottage has become the hub of the quintessential cottage furniture – slipcovered, of course. "We have three different lines and more than 300 different fabrics homeowners can choose from," says Melloney.

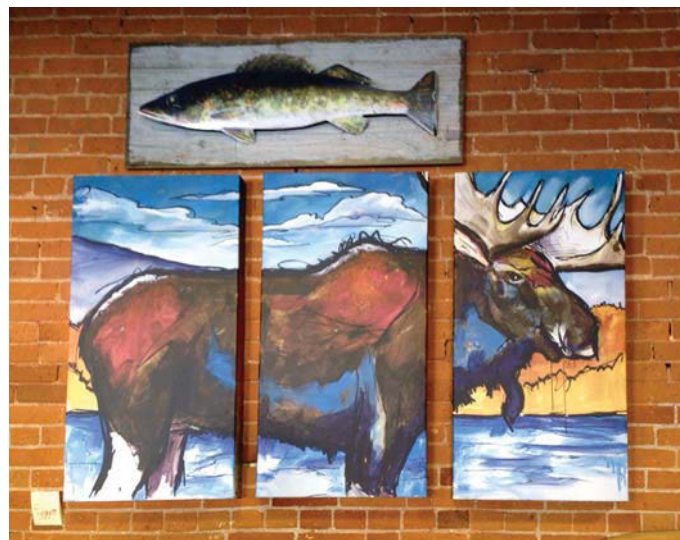
"We're quite happy decorating for a one bedroom in the wilderness as we are a million dollar cottage"

INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES

Simply Cottage also offers full interior design services. Whether you're decorating a brand new cottage and need to fill several rooms, or you need just the perfect lamp, Simply Cottage can help. "We don't believe that you can't do your own interior decorating. We have all the things you need, we just provide advice."

It's not just the amazing array of high-quality North American-made furniture and furnishings that keep customers coming back. It's the excellent customer service, constant supply of variety – most recently, Melloney's introduced a line of water-based all-in-one primer cottage paint – and welcoming spirit. "We're quite happy decorating for a one bedroom in the wilderness as we are a million dollar cottage. We specialize in causal, comfy cottage and find a balance between too precious and too formal."

CONTACT: simplycottage.ca
(705) 646-2828



The Dream Machine

Personal utility vehicles no cottager facing remote, rough terrain should be without

Brought to you by



What swims, climbs and crawls through any terrain? ARGO Amphibious UTVs – nearly super-human personal utility vehicles that many cottagers rely on for service, recreation and fun on their properties. “They’re easy to use and lots of fun to drive,” says Paula Barros, marketing manager.

NEW ENTRY LEVEL MODELS

This year ARGO introduces two new entry level models: both 6×6, with a 19 or 23 horse power engine. The new models (750 HDi and Frontier EFI) feature all the capabilities of existing UTVs, including webbed tires that can get across flooded areas, small pond and bogs and deep mud, plus they carry load

capacities up to 700 pounds on land, 500 pounds on water. Not only is the model terrific for accessing water-bound cottages – it’s amazing for recreational fun. “When you zip through a trail and reach a lake, you can keep on going,” says Barros. Other great pluses of the ARGO:

- Canadian-made, dealer distributed since 1967
- Safety-tested
- Environmentally-friendly

Check for a dealer near you on argoutv.com/dealer-locator.

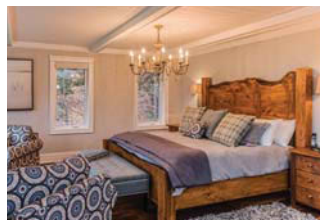
CONTACT: argoutv.com

Best of Houzz Design 2015!

Urban Rustic Living design services bring your decor dreams to life

Brought to you by

URBAN RUSTIC LIVING



Being recognized by Houzz – the premier design and decor community – is a huge honor for Urban Rustic Living owner and design consultant Tary Roossien. But it isn’t all that surprising considering the quality of the design work offered by the Huntsville, Ont.-based studio and showroom, co-owned by husband Ed. “We believe in inspiring your creativity, and in design collaboration,” she explains.

The 7,000 square foot showroom is tastefully set up like a home – in a century-old two story house. The Lighthouse showroom features a wide selection of ideal cottage lighting solutions, while the Design Studio next door fills a former church on Main Street.

Just like its namesake, Urban Rustic Living’s signature look seamlessly blends elegance and rustic, with an emphasize on casual comfort. “We’ll help you change your decor with the seasons, or stay on trend. It’s not about selling, for us, it’s about helping you make good purchasing decisions.”

CONTACT: urbanrustic-living.com
thelighthousemuskoka.com

Get your dream cedar or slate roof!

Enviroshake offers the most authentic-looking product with lifetime performance at one-third the cost



What if you could get your dream cedar or slate roof, save money, and never have to worry about it again thanks to a lifetime warranty? There are no ‘what ifs’ when it comes to Enviroshake’s authentic looking cedar and slate roof shingles.

“Cottagers love us as an alternative because they get the look of high-end, old world roofing, knowing it requires no maintenance and is a one-time cost,”

explains Ashley Smith, director of marketing at Enviroshake. The Canadian company manufactures its product – applying breakthrough engineering – in Chatham, Ont. “Just knowing your new roof can withstand impacts from falling tree limbs, hail, 290 km/hour winds, and that it is mould, mildew and insect resistant, will not fade, rot, crack or peel, is extremely comforting to cottagers.”

WHY ENVIROSHAKE ROOF SHINGLES LOOK SO REAL

Enviroshake® is the only composite on the market to truly replicate the authentic look of natural #1 grade taper-split cedar shakes because it is the only formulation that contains recycled materials and real natural wood fibers. And since the eco-friendly composite material is not purely plastic or rubber, the shingles don’t have a shiny look inherent in most synthetic roofing, nor do they emit an oily residue or an unpleasant scent. Both Enviroshake® and the newest innovation – Enviroslate® – roofing materials are not susceptible to freeze-thaw cracking, either.

Be sure to stop by the booth

Brought to you by

Enviroshake®
Quality Engineered Roofing

to touch and feel both at the interactive roofing display. “Homeowners can’t believe they’re not real!” adds Smith.



Enviroshake® comes in various colour options to emulate classic silvered cedar, aged cedar or multi-tone roof.



Enviroslate® looks just like natural slate and costs half as much real slate.

CONTACT: enviroshake.com
(866) 423-3302

Build your perfect log home with total confidence

1867 Confederation Log & Timber Frame has 35 years' experience turning log home hopes into reality

Brought to you by



For the uninitiated, the enjoyment of living in a log home is hard to imagine – surrounded by walls that harken back to the historic legacy of our forebears, each with its own unique beauty and warmth. But 1867 Confederation Log & Timber Frame will bring you as close as possible with its cutting edge 3D design centre, and its profound dedication to homeowner education and empowerment.

“We understand the investment, both financial and heartfelt, that people make in a log or timber frame home,” says Rich Kinsman, vice-president of sales at the Bobcaygeon, Ont.-based builder. “Absolutely everything we do in this family-owned company respects that,” he adds, speaking on behalf of fellow owners, brother, Andrew, vice-president of operations, and his father, Rick, who started at the company 35 years ago.

Since then, Rick, and eventually his sons, have poured their energies into enhancing the log home building traditions with innovation, and

dedicated themselves to superior customer service. Strategic use of modern technologies have resulted in airtight craftsmanship and building processes that exceed today's energy efficient standards.

“We are passionate about what we do and take pride in it, which is why we have thousands of happy customers,” adds Rick. Here are a few more reasons why 1867 Confederation homeowners are pleased for life.

FLEXIBILITY, AND PRICING OPTIONS

Whether you want to build a compact cabin or a large home,

1867 Confederation has designs to choose from, or an architectural team on-hand to help you bring your vision to life. You also have the option of working with your own contractor, building yourself or opting for a turnkey build. Any way you go, 1867 Confederation will assist you every step of the way. “You can always count on us to stick to our quote,” adds Rick.

EDUCATION THAT EMPOWERS

1867 Confederation makes education a priority, believing strongly that homeowners should be involved with every aspect of designing their dream log home. “Being able to see how you will live, virtually, in your future home using our design centre's 3D representation is a major confidence boost,” adds Rich. The design software shows a 360 degree view of your plan, complete with elevations.

One of the best ways to get started is to attend a 1867 Confederation's no-obligation educational seminar, held throughout the year. “We are not just focused on the quality

of the product we ship, but making sure your new home experience is a pleasurable one,” adds Rich.



The nation's most energy efficient log home!

1867 Confederation Log & Timber Frame is the first log home company in Canada to achieve the Energy Star designation. Stop by the booth at the Cottage Life Show and ask about the EEE Log – a first-of-its-kind Engineered Energy Efficient Log that makes log homes twice as energy efficient as before.

To learn more visit:
confederationloghomes.com/energy-efficient-log-homes

CONTACT: confederationloghomes.com
(877) 462-5647

THE 1867 CONFEDERATION DIFFERENCE

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ 50-year transferable guarantee | ✓ Superior craftsmanship that exceeds today's energy standards |
| ✓ Cutting edge design centre for 3D visualization | ✓ Plans that meet your budget |
| ✓ FSC-certified Northern White Pine Ontario wood | ✓ Established dealer network that spans North America |

No battery, no cord – just off-grid light

A simple tea light powers the adjustable LED JOI Lamp for four hours

Brought to you by



Wherever you go, the JOI Lamp goes. This ingenious heat-powered lamp is ideal for beautiful ambience or handy task lighting at the cottage.

► **Set the mood** Since the JOI lantern is not dependent on solar power, you can count on it to provide a warming glow for hours from just one tea light any time you need it. Bonus – the weather-proofed stainless steel construction means the stylish hull won't rust if you leave it outside.

► **Set it to task** The lamp head can be raised so the eight LED lights throw more than enough light to read by.

Created and manufactured by Caframo Limited on Georgian Bay near Wiarton, the JOI Lamp uses thermoelectric technology to transform the energy of simple tea light into four hours of lighting indoor or outside. It's truly a unique, off-grid solution to improve your cottage living.

More off-grid innovation!
Caframo Limited's Ecofans use the heat from a wood stove to circulate heat throughout the room.

CONTACT: thermologi.com
(800) 567-3556

Superior outdoor power equipment

W.E. Enterprises powered outdoor tools stand up to cottage rigors

Brought to you by



Ordering your outdoor power equipment from W.E. Enterprises is the quickest, most reliable way to find the perfect cottage tool. The long-time experts in outdoor power equipment deal in only the best brands, including DR® Power Equipment, and arrange delivery. That's not all – their highly experienced after-sales technicians are on standby to take care of any issues. "We're experts at making sure cottage property maintenance is a pleasure not a task," says Neil Grieve, sales manager at W.E. Enterprises.

► **Wood chippers** DR®'s RAPID-FEED™ or 3-POINT HITCH DR® CHIPPER chips hard or softwood branches up to 5 ½"



thick – two or three inches more than other brands.

► **Wood splitters** Get the job done quicker with the DR® RAPID FIRE wood splitter,

which splits in three seconds (compared to the norm – 15 seconds). "You'll be done in no time!"

► **Brush mowers** The self-propelled DR® Field and Brush mower is narrow enough to take into the woods, but wide enough to yield a cut of up to 30". Attachment options include snowblower, snow blade, and wood chipper.

CONTACT: weenterprises.com
1-888-629-1424

The heavy timber value proposition

Discover Normerica's exceptional timber cottages

Brought to you by



You know the beauty of heavy timber construction and its suitability for cottages and cottage additions. It is unique, dazzling, energy efficient and with Normerica, it is within your financial reach.

"There is no doubt there is a marginal premium for timber construction, however, when weighed against the ability to

custom design your home, our customers are thrilled," says David McFarlane, President of Normerica. "The value proposition is obvious." Here are a few more discoveries awaiting future Normerica timber cottage owners.

► **Package flexibility** Normerica will custom design your timber cottage, or modify one of its

hundreds of designs to suit your specific needs. Normerica offers shell packages designed to meet your lifestyle requirements and your budget.

► **Respect for design and budget** "We help you make decisions to ensure your design and budget goals are achieved," says McFarlane. For many projects, design and budget are at odds

in the building experience, but not so at Normerica. "Not only do we strive to customize design solutions that deliver on your dream vision," McFarlane adds, "we help you develop a practical budget for the entire construction project."

► **Turnkey support** Normerica knows that building your own home can seem overwhelming. That's why it prides itself on providing solutions which support all your decision making, from design through to building.

SHOW STOPPER

► Stop by the booth at the Cottage Life Show and discuss your project with our experts!

CONTACT: normerica.com
(800) 361-7449

Customize your own cottage Raid® Defence System

Raid® helps you work smarter, not harder to beat ant, wasp and many more unwanted pests

Sponsored by



If you've never battled ants or wasps at the cottage, you're lucky. The reality is that living in nature comes with a few downsides, and one of them is pesky bugs. The RAID® System Creator™ takes the guesswork out of determining what kind of insect is inside or outside your cottage, and the process for controlling them, and provides step-by-step advice. That's not all – Raid® also provides tips to help keep bugs from returning.

Customize your own Raid® Defence System by answering just a few quick questions at raid.ca.



STEP 1 ▶ Identify the bug

Use the handy pictures provided online to quickly and easily identify your unwelcome cottage guest from 27 different possibilities. If you aren't sure what insect you're dealing with, check out the Bug ID tool which will help you narrow down the search. To illustrate, we picked ants.

STEP 2 & 3 ▶ Indicate location

Your attack plan will vary depending on whether your pest is indoors or outdoors, and where specifically they are located. We're finding our ants indoors, around the kitchen sink in and around the pantry area.

STEP 4 ▶ Gauge the infestation

This step is easy: Gauge how many bugs you're dealing with. We're only seeing one or two.



STEP 5 ▶ Get your system!

The Raid Defence System recommends using:

ATTACK

Raid® Ant, Roach & Earwig Insect Killer 16A kills on contact and keeps killing with residual action for two weeks.

CONTROL

After ants feed on Raid® Ant Baits 3, they return to the colony and transfer the bait to the queen. Do not place baits in areas where you have sprayed.

Also, for areas where baits cannot be easily placed, use Raid® Ant Killer Liquid. Ants carry this liquid bait back to the nest to destroy the entire colony.

There are also helpful tips provided for your customized plan. Be sure to check out the how-to videos at raid.ca!

CONTACT: raid.ca



How to tackle wasps

Before wasps become a problem, inspect your yard and cottage surroundings in early summer, looking for any wasp activity or paper nests taking shape. Missed the nest formation? Use Raid® Wasp & Hornet Bug Killer 7. This product can be used to kill wasp, hornet, and yellowjacket nests, in trees or attached to buildings.

- Spray after nightfall when wasps are less active (spray only if the air is still).
- Stand at a safe distance, not directly under the nest. Hold container upright at arms length, point the actuator at the nest, and spray into the opening of the nest first. Then spray the rest of the nest until it is saturated.
- Wait 48 hours before removing the nest.
- Hose off foliage of surrounding plants.



Be ready for Mother Nature – protect your boat

No matter how bad the weather gets, R&J Machine has the best solutions to keep your boat safe and secure

Brought to you by



R&J Machine has been manufacturing boat Lifts for almost 40 years, but over the last few years they have made significant changes in their design and build to reflect the changing boat trends and weather conditions. “The

changes may seem small, but taken together they’ve made our lifts ones that offer superior strength and the high quality that we are known for,” says Rick Hickson, founder of the Lakefield, Ont.-based marine docking and lifts manufacturer. “The changes address the fact that boats are heavier and wind storms are more powerful.”

All of R&J Machine’s lifts use an innovative cradle system with full length bunks that hold the vessel in place and safely out of the water, rather than slings or partial V-bunks. Pressure caused by slings can over time warp the shape of the hull on bowriders, thus preventing the walk through windshield from closing, says Hickson.



Innovative design and customization underscore R&J’s boat lifts and docks

Our lift frames are built with marine-grade aluminum rectangular tubing, which has the weight and strength to withstand buckling under high winds. Pontoon boat sales have increased dramatically over the last couple of years, so R&J Machine has developed an innovative vertical lift with full-length carpeted bunks. “If you get a wind storm and your pontoon boat is tied to

a lighter weight dock, you’ll find it pulling your dock everywhere,” he explains.

In short: secure your investment with an innovative R&J Machine Lift. “Our lifts offer the strength and rigidity required when Mother Nature is at her worst,” says Hickson.

CONTACT: rjmachine.ca
(800) 461-7638

FREE SITE INSPECTION

R&J machine has a saying: No two waterfronts are created exactly the same. That is why all of their products are manufactured to suit the needs of their customers. Their waterfront design experts offer free site inspections so that they can design a system to meet all your boating/docking requirements. Visit their booth at the Spring Cottage Life Show to learn more.

Transform your hillside living

Make all your trips up and down the hill a pleasure with a safe, reliable and durable hillside lift from Inclined Elevation

Brought to you by



You love your cottage, in part because it’s high off the water and has an awesome view. And you love the lakefront and all the activities there. But the hillside between them is preventing everyone from enjoying all the property offers because getting to the water and back is simply too difficult. The solution, an inclined elevator from Inclined Elevation. “With a lift,” says one Inclined Elevation lift owner “the dock is another room at the cottage!”

“An inclined elevator will transform how you use your cottage property, how often you use it, and how many years you’ll keep using it,” says John Weinstein, PhD., owner/operator of Inclined Elevation Inc.,

based in Bracebridge. “If you do need to sell, it will add value and saleability beyond its cost.”

EXPERIENCE YOUR PROPERTY ANEW

Adding an inclined elevator changes cottage life as much as moving, but without the many drawbacks. By providing frequent, safe, and easy access to the lake, a lift will completely transform your cottage experience. “I no longer worry about how many trips up and down the hill my guests and I will need to make. My lift will allow me to spend many more years at the cottage. Wonderful!” reports another Inclined Elevation lift owner. And the safe, effortless, and often scenic

ride will also enable you to have more visitors at your cottage.

If you’re looking at building a cottage, a lift can turn a difficult lot into a perfect lot. It can also be used to transport builders and materials in the construction phase.

SAFETY AND INNOVATION

Weinstein started building lifts in 2003, and started Inclined Elevation in 2006. From day one he has focused on safety, reliability and innovation. Their attractive, high quality lifts set industry standards with features that include precision located, geometrically rigid, all-welded steel tracks, multiple automatic safety systems, programmable lift controls, and



spacious cedar-clad cars.

Don’t give up on your hillside property. Inclined Elevation’s craftsmen will design and build a custom lift that will transform your cottage experience.

CONTACT: inclinedelevation.com
(705) 645-4567

Brought to you by

TIMBER MART plans make building easy

You can do anything with TIMBER MART's wide array of detailed building plans! Build your own cottage, garage or shed...without a hitch



Deciding to build a dream cottage or home doesn't have to be an overwhelming task. Whether you're choosing a TIMBER MART home or cottage – or one of their many garage, shed or cottage project plans – you're assured a wide selection of choice, and friendly expert advice on-hand at your local store, says Debbie Sobon, marketing program manager. "Our team is focused on helping you make your dream building project a reality."

STEP ONE

Decide what you want to build

Pick up a catalogue in-store or visit timbermart.ca and begin searching through hundreds of TIMBER MART plans for your ideal cottage, home, shed or garage project plan. "There's a wide variety of designs to suit every lifestyle and particular set of needs," says Sobon. Doing a spring clean at the cottage this year? TIMBER MART also features tips in-store and online, to better organize your space.

STEP TWO

Customize your plan

TIMBER MART's design service experts can customize any design, adding unique features that you've always wanted in your dream home. Call 1-800-563-1807 for a quote. "TIMBER MART experts are available to



review material lists and prices at the beginning of a project so you're aware of budget requirements," explains Sobon.

STEP THREE

Get ready to begin

Once you've settled on a dream home or cottage plan, order your blueprints through your local TIMBER MART dealer. Blueprints will indicate exterior elevations; dimensional foundation and floor plan; cross section; general construction details and a recommended material list. Your TIMBER MART dealer can provide recommendations for materials such as lumber used

throughout, insulation, drywall and drywall accessories, high-quality windows and much more.

► Building a canoe rack, outdoor shower, perfect privy, swim ladder, raft or tree house with a TIMBER MART project plan? Design service experts will review your project to make sure you have all the materials you need. "TIMBER MART materials are of the highest quality and meet modern engineering standards," says Sobon.

STEP FOUR

Lift off

Last but not least, if you're building a new home or cottage, your local TIMBER MART will work closely with your builder or deliver components as you need them. "The entire experience of choosing a TIMBER MART home or cottage is geared to ensure you build with peace of mind. We deliver the simplicity and reliability for free," she adds.

Show Both Cards – EARN MORE AIR MILES® reward miles



The TIMBER MART credit card offers financing options to help you get started on your project today. The approval process is fast (online or in-store). Plus, you EARN MORE AIR MILES® reward miles* when you show both cards at time of purchase (at participating TIMBER MART stores). Learn more at timbermart.ca/earn-more.

* Valid only for purchases made on the Regular Credit Plan. Purchases on Promotional Credit Plans and Commercial Accounts are not eligible for this offer.

▲ Pick up a catalogue at your local TIMBER MART store, at the Spring Cottage Life Show Workshop or visit the Builders' Mate section on timbermart.ca.

CONTACT: timbermart.ca
(800) 563-1807

Cottaging is better with Coleman®

Coleman's innovative and durable array of products improve entertaining, relaxing and recreating at the cottage

Cool ice and drinks on hand? Check. Extra seating? These coolers will come in handy. Are the PFDs packed? All deflated and stored in the suitcases. Thanks to Coleman's innovative products, you're all prepared for relaxing at your cottage on the weekend. That's because Coleman's passionate team of engineers and product managers have been designing gear for adults and kids alike for more than 110 years with founder W.C. Coleman's vision in mind – to make outdoor living easier.



Don't get caught in the dark

Preserve battery life with the new Coleman® Battery Lock™ flashlight series

Power outages are inconvenient – but easily overcome with the Coleman® BatteryLock™ Flashlights. These range from 75 to 700 Lumens. No more blindly making your way to where you store the flashlight, only to discover the batteries have died. This innovative system preserves battery life and reduces battery corrosion so you'll have power when you need it the most.

► **How does it work?** On normal flashlights, there is residual drain as long as the battery is connected in the circuit, even when the light is off. With a simple twist of the head (bezel) you can completely disengage your batteries, so they can be stored in your flashlight for years (up to their inherent shelf life).



Benefits

- ✓ preserve battery power for years
- ✓ prohibits toxic corrosion
- ✓ easy twist head (bezel) to engage and disengage BatteryLock™ system
- ✓ single-button for simple operation
- ✓ strong, lightweight aluminum construction
- ✓ impact and water resistant
- ✓ lifetime LEDs never need replacing

PFDs for the whole family!

Stearns® offers an array of durable, lightweight personal flotation devices (PFDs) that fit comfortably, allowing for improved range of motion and ventilation. Comfort is key to ensuring constant wear, and, therefore, safety out on the lake. Together with the Canadian Safe Boating Council, Stearns® promotes responsible boating throughout Canada. Make sure you apply these tips to find the right PFD fit:

- Sizing is based on chest measurements for adults and weight for children.
- Check the label carefully for details.
- Try on your PFD to ensure proper fit.
- Your PFD is too big if you can pull it over your ears, and too small if you can't fasten all the buckles and straps.



ADULT

The 33 Gram Inflatable Vest inflates automatically in seconds in the water. Thanks to this lightweight

tri-fold design, this PFD gives you flotation when you need it, freedom when you don't.

Brought to you by



How to pack a cooler

- Pre-chill drinks and food so your ice lasts longer
- Pack foods first-used and often-used at the top (last-used go on the bottom)
- Put ice in last (cold air travels down)
- Use crushed ice to cool food and drinks faster; block ice to keep them cool longer
- ◀ Coolers also transport hot food! Pack warm dishes in their own **Party Stacker™ Cooler**.

Other Cool Cottage Coolers



▲ The perfect long weekend cooler! The Coleman® 70QT Extreme Cooler holds 100 cans, and keeps ice up to five days at 32°C (90°F).



▲ Holds two-litre bottles upright or 70 cans plus ice with the Coleman® 45 QT Wheeled Cooler! Keeps ice up to three days at 32°C (90°F).

CONTACT: colemancanada.ca

Host the perfect cottage weekend

Planning is the key to ensuring weekend entertaining goes smoothly. Here are a few tips to help you out.

START ON SATURDAY

Ask guests to arrive in the morning, so you can get organized Friday night.

KEEP FOOD SIMPLE

When developing a menu for weekend, opt for recipes with minimal steps, and plan to eat meals with perishable ingredients first. The night before you leave, prepare recipe

ingredients in advance (wash, peel and chop salad ingredients, for example) so you don't have to waste time at the cottage.

USE MULTIPLE COOLERS

Pack food, drinks and dry goods separately in colour-coded coolers so it's easy to find everything. Coleman® Party Stacker™ Cooler Series, with interlocking lids, allow you to neatly stack one on top of another during transportation, at the cottage, and in your garage or storage space when not in use. Large moulded

handles make them easy to carry to and from the car.

STOCK UP

You can never have enough paper plates, cups, cutlery and napkins on hand. Keep a stash at the cottage and replenish when needed.

PREPARE YOUR PARTY SPACE

Wherever you plan on entertaining – dock, forest floor, decking – clean up the space and make sure there is enough seating (some coolers can second as seats).



YOUTH

Kids PFDs should spark excitement, not get a frown from a bad smell. The Stearns® Youth Hydro-pene Vest

features antimicrobial protection that inhibits the growth of odor-causing bacteria, mould and mildew.



CHILD

Children won't want to take off the Spider-man Child PFD, also featuring antimicrobial protection – and a leg strap/

grab handle. Also comes in Strawberry Shortcake, and My Little Pony.



INFANT

The Stearns® Infant Hydro-pene PFD features lightweight, breathable hydro-pene fabric and

neck support to encourage face up flotation and comfort.

PUDDLE JUMPER®

The fun lasts longer for kids in the water with Stearns® Puddle Jumper® SwimAids. Comfortable design allows children to move and swim freely.



Available in 4 designs!

Outdoor fun for all ages!

Be nature-inspired. Be nature-educated. Don't miss a second of show-stopping action at Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry display

Brought to you by



As cottagers, we depend on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to help us get the most out of the outdoors. And that includes preserving the resources for the next generation of cottagers. Here are a bunch of ways you can be more involved with enriching our connection to nature during and after the Cottage Life Show.

Learn to Fish casting pond! (Adults welcome, too!)

Learn to fish There's nothing quite like the gentle lapping of the lake water on the boat, the exercise in hopeful anticipation, and the first tug on your fishing line. Try out the amazing casting pond and fishing simulator at this year's Cottage Life Show and get the whole family excited about fishing. Experts are on hand to help kids and adults who have never fished before make their first cast into the pond. "Fishing really brings us closer to nature, and the connection fosters respect for conservation and biodiversity," says Communications Officer Anne MacLachlan.

► **More Fishing Fun!** – Kids can also design their own lure and temporary fishing tattoo, visit the colouring table and enter a scavenger hunt!

The giant fish tanks are back!

Spend some time gazing into three 115-gallon fish tanks, sporting a wealth of fish you're likely to come across in Ontario lakes. Get up close and personal with Ontario's underwater ecosystem, practice your fish identification skills, and ask all your questions.



Learn to fish
with your family
in two hours!
[Ontario.ca/
learntofish](http://Ontario.ca/learntofish)



Need cooking tips for fish?



Foodland Ontario's cooking demonstrations at the Cottage Life Show, by chefs Tawfik Shehata and Chris Squire, will feature delicious perch and rainbow trout!

► Your Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish!

If you like to dine on your catch, use this guide to help identify species and angling destinations with lower contaminant levels. Or check out the interactive, searchable map at ontario.ca/fishguide.

Expert Advice On Hand

► Ask a scientist...

Did you know Ontario is home to more than 30,000 animal species? Our biologists will be at the Show to inform you about ways to protect Ontario's ecosystem, including preserving its biodiversity. Or, if you're worried about your environmental footprint, discuss ways you can reduce it with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change experts at the Show.

► Ask an officer...

You'll also find Ministry Enforcement Specialists at the display booths. So if you ever wondered what a day in the life of a conservation officer is, make sure you ask. They'll also answer all your fishing and hunting questions. **Buy your hunting and fishing licenses at the Spring Cottage Life Show!**



Be Bear Wise

Black bears live throughout most of Ontario, and their entire life revolves around food. That means one of the best way to prevent bear encounters around your cottage is to limit food sources. Learn how to do that at ontario.ca/bearwise

CONTACT: ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-forestry

Reunite with the outdoors this cottage season

OFF!® features new, effective ways to protect your family
– and guests – from hungry mosquitoes



Powder-dry personal repellent aerosols. Lamps. Clip-on protection. SC Johnson's array of OFF!® products ensure you'll get outdoors this cottage season and stay outdoors – no matter the bug forecast. Mosquitoes can literally ruin a cottage weekend, forcing families into screened rooms or worse, indoors. OFF!® has developed a variety of ways to ensure you have the right protection for every situation.



Forgot the repellent?
Apply OFF!® FamilyCare™ Bite and Itch Relief, a handy, touch-free, no mess pen that relieves pain of insect bites! For adults and children 2 years and older.

Sponsored by



Sprayless Repellent!

For those occasions when you don't want to put anything on your skin, there's OFF! Clip-On® Mosquito Repellent. The quiet, battery-powered fan, clipped on your belt, circulates odourless repellent. Within minutes, the refillable device provides head-to-toe protection for up to 11 hours.

The fan circulated device is perfect for stationary activities at the cottage like:

- Reading on the deck
- Lounging on the dock
- Sitting around a campfire



Your cottage guide to OFF!®

No matter your cottage situation, there's an ideal OFF! option for you.



➤ **2 hours of plant-based mosquito protection, for kids over three**
Just want to hit the hammock for a few hours? OFF!® FamilyCare® Botanical's

unique formula is based on an ingredient found in the lemon eucalyptus plant. The lotion feels great on – not sticky or greasy – and repels mosquitoes for up to two hours.



➤ **5 hours of non-sticky or greasy protection from mosquitoes**
Planning on spending a half day down at the dock or relaxing on the deck? OFF!® Smooth & Dry uses an advanced powder-dry personal repel-

lent aerosol that dries in seconds, and repels mosquitoes for five hours. It also provides protection from black flies, stable flies, ticks, and deer flies!



➤ **8 hours of dry-on-contact protection from mosquitoes**
A full day of outdoor fun is a lot more enjoyable when you don't have to keep reapplying repellent. OFF!® Deep Woods® Dry offers the same benefits of Deep Woods® formula but with advanced powder-dry technology that dries on contact and provides up to eight hours of protection.



Lamp. This stylish lantern uses candle light to heat a pad that releases insecticide, effectively killing mosquitoes for up to 4.5 metres.

And for those occasions when you don't want guests to go unprotected... try the OFF!® PowerPad® Mosquito

CONTACT: off.ca

Outdoor furniture to suit every need and style!

Whether you're looking for a new Muskoka chair, wicker lounge set, umbrella or custom bunkie – Woodmill of Muskoka is your one-stop shop



Imagine yourself relaxing on your dock, deck, backyard or porch – away from your fast-paced life. The morning sunrise is peeking up over the horizon of the calm lake. As you gaze around, the tranquil scene comes to a jarring halt. You eyeball the one blight, your rotting outdoor furniture.

Don't worry about what to do. Just hop in the car and travel along Highway 11. As you enter Muskoka, if you're not already there, just past Luigi Road, slow down and watch for 'Woody' the life size T-Rex dinosaur. He's a landmark for Woodmill of Muskoka and its massive four-acre showroom full of outdoor furniture made with HDPE recycled plastic,

cedar, Ontario white pine and cast aluminum, including Muskoka chairs, benches, PVC wicker sets, umbrellas, gazebos and bunkies – many made on-site and true to authentic design principles. "If we don't have it, we will build it for you," says Ron McKay, who runs the family business with the help of his wife Viviana, daughter Cassandra and son Taylor.

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

When you visit Woodmill of Muskoka, you will discover far more than outdoor furniture. The exclusive rosewood dining tables and chairs are a must see for their exquisite wood texture. "You'll be the envy in your own home or cottage," says McKay.

► McKay gets asked the same question every year – why is recycled plastic so expensive? The process works like this:



- discarded plastic is picked up by transport trucks
- it's sorted, cleaned, grinded, cleaned again, melted, and made into tiny beads
- the beads are put into a hopper with a colorant
- the mixture is melted and extruded
- then it's cut into parts, holes are drilled for bolts, rough edges are sanded
- the final chair is put into boxes, and eventually assembled for you!

"If we don't have it, we will build it for you"

Also, new for 2015 is Woodmill of Muskoka's larger showroom of cottage and home décor accents, giftware and edible treats – from Maple syrup to moose droppings. Canoe shelving is available in variety of sizes and colours. Cottage style pillows, and even antler chandeliers, are cast about. Outdoor accents include cast iron fire pits, resin bears, interior water fountains, porch and old-fashioned family swings.

Maybe you're looking for extra sleeping for guests, a man cave or studio, or you want your teenagers to have their own space? Woodmill of Muskoka also offers custom bunkies in several designs.

UNDERSTANDING QUALITY

Woodmill of Muskoka staff are trained to show you the difference and value of all its products. As a leader in the industry, McKay teaches his staff and customers to look at quality factors, such as the thickness and density of the plastic in Muskoka chairs, hardware used, and the ergonomic comfort and fit.

"Cottagers and homeowners love the low-maintenance, comfortable design and quality bar none, of our recycled plastic Muskoka chairs, picnic tables, park benches, bistro tables and chairs, lounges and tables," says McKay. "People want a reputable and established family operated business to shop at, where they will learn what and why they're buying."

Brought to you by



Official home of the Muskoka chair!

Woodmill of Muskoka is recognized worldwide for making authentic wood – and recycled plastic – Muskoka chairs. It was Woodmill of Muskoka who Ottawa called on to build chairs for Prince William and Duchess Kate's visit in Ottawa and years earlier for the G20 Summit, also featured at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Pan American Games. Ron applies design principles to the recycled plastic chairs, and further advanced the design.

- 0 visible screws on back and seat
- 1½" thick bolted legs
- Three ergonomic styles
- Made from 100% recycled HDPE plastic
- 1,020 water bottles = 1 Woodmill of Muskoka Recycle Plastic chair
- 20-year warranty (rot and pest resistant)

"Our Recycle Plastic is made with strict manufacturing principles from all the plastic that we recycle and then we use only the finest Ontario-grown pine, which, when harvested is replaced by new seedlings to ensure that it is a renewable resource," says McKay.

CONTACT: thewoodmill.ca | (705) 687 5959

Separate your risk! Choose Northstar Marine Insurance

The boating experts offer speedy policy set-up and crucial coverage advice

Brought to you by

Northstar
MARINE INSURANCE

Excited cottagers have been known to call Northstar Marine Insurance from Highway 400, on their way to pick up a new boat. “We’re able to answer their questions and set them up with a comprehensive plan before they reach the marina,” says Northstar Marine Insurance owner Jared Chartrand.

That’s because the Northstar Marine Insurance “experience” is designed for the cottage-boat owner. Chartrand founded the Barrie-Ont.-based brokerage seven years ago with 15 years of marine insurance expertise under his belt. Today, there are more than 6,000 satisfied Northstar customers. “We believe the joy of owning a boat

should be enhanced by the desire to protect it,” he says. “So my team has perfected the process of setting up a new policy, by streamlining paperwork and payment methods.”

Northstar Marine customers also value the confidence they gain in having a separate boat policy. “For example, a lot of boat owners don’t know that a stand-alone marine insurance policy protects your existing home and car insurance plans from increased premiums, or worst-case scenario, denied coverage,” explains Chartrand. “The last thing you want is problems with your boat affecting your ability to insure your property.”

In the event of a claim, the Northstar Marine team also



Power watercrafts, runabouts, fishing boats, pontoons... name your boat – Northstar Marine are the cottage marine insurance specialists.

provides support throughout the entire claims process – and is always willing to advocate on the customer’s behalf. “Education is a big component of safe, enjoyable boating,” adds Chartrand. Northstar prides itself on

keeping boaters well-informed of issues as well as protected from risk so they can boat with confidence.

CONTACT: northstarinsurance.ca
(866) 717-9295

You can tell it's CanExel

The quality and durability of Canadian-made LP® CanExel® Prefinished Siding is remarkable in all the right ways – especially for cottagers

Brought to you by

LP CANEXEL
PREFINISHED SIDING



They say the best things are worth waiting for, and that’s what one cottager recently did when he held up building on his site so he could have siding in one of LP CanExel’s newest colours. “It’s fun seeing homeowners get really excited when they realize the superiority of our product and how great the finish is, and that there just isn’t any substitute,” says Anne Brannan,

product manager for CanExel. The company has been harvesting and manufacturing siding in Nova Scotia for over 40 years.

Cottagers are particularly excited this year about the company’s brand new colours, which are all nature-inspired and bring the total colour line to 21. “Coastline, Cliffside and Sandalwood are all inviting new tones that bring homes and nature together in harmony,” says Brannan.

The array of colour choices, and the colours’ longevity isn’t the only reason homeowners opt for CanExel siding over alternatives like vinyl – it’s the incredible wood-grain finish look and decades-long durability, she adds.

So why does CanExel siding look so good for so long? The prefinished siding is produced from wood fibre, resin and wax fused under pressure. Innovation ensures the sustainably

manufactured siding has high resistance to cracking, splinters, and buckling, regardless of Canada’s harsh weather. Its multi-layer, heat-cured coating also makes it resistant to UV.

Ask about the company’s North American Warranty, and visit the web site for inspirational ideas.

CONTACT: canexel.ca
(888) 820-0325

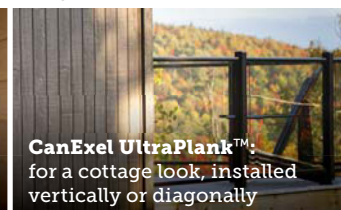
Perfect for Every Look Check out the three styles of siding you can get in over 20 colours.



CanExel Ridgewood D-5™:
for the warm appeal of Dutch lap siding



Ced'R-Vue®: for the authentic look of cedar without many of the drawbacks



CanExel UltraPlank™:
for a cottage look, installed vertically or diagonally

Brought to you by



The cottage country electronics specialists

Brentview Electronics are experts at improving cottage living through automation

Who says you can't be one with nature – and be fully integrated. Automating your heating and air conditioning system at the cottage, for example, actually reduces your electricity usage, points out second generation Brentview Electronics owner Stephen deWeerd. “The reality today is that many cottages are second homes. Our expertise can improve energy efficiency, but also address security issues during absences,” adds the director and general manager of the 45-year-old boutique electronics store. But maybe you just want to listen to high-quality music down at the dock. “We're focused on individualized solutions, not package sales,”

explains deWeerd. “Every cottage situation is unique, and we specialize in providing one-on-one quality products and quality workmanship.”

PEACE OF MIND, ENERGY SAVINGS

Not only will Brentview's long-serving team of expert technicians help cottagers set up the latest in heating, ventilation and automation controls, including automated blinds, the team are experts at installing security systems with real-time feedback. “So if you're driving back from the cottage and realize you forgot to turn down the air conditioning, you can easily set it lower from your cell phone. If you're near the

water – our flood sensors can alert you to rising water levels in your cottage. Or our camera systems can notify you if a tree falls on your roof.”

CRYSTAL CLEAR AUDIO VISUALS

Brentview also offers a number of ways to set up music, including affordable wireless services featuring Sonos HiFi players, controllers, speakers and accessories. Want to watch the game with the lake as your backdrop? The Seura (42" to 65") outdoor television is the answer, says deWeerd. “It features dual-layer



anti-reflective glass coating and twice the brightness rating of any other outdoor television.”

Ask about free site surveys at the Spring Cottage Life Show.

CONTACT: brentview.com
(416) 487-1178

Alternative toilet and septic care for any place (almost!)

EcoEthic offers state-of-the-art, environmentally-safe solutions

Brought to you by



Rob Davis, co-owner of the Sunderland, Ont.-based EcoEthic, is a recognized wastewater and septic treatment consultant, and an award-winning environmental advocate. That's why the sewage solutions he and co-owner Catharine Davis bring to cottagers solve all their effluent problems, and help prevent future ones. “We believe innovation can help advance the environment, and support and respect our love of nature.”

CLOSED-LOOP COMPOSTING TOILET

Most composting toilets on the market today come with fine print that recommends an “emergency overflow drain” – a backyard pit where excess liquid seeps – which is illegal in most municipalities. “Unfortunately, many people don't realize this until they end up with wet feet one day,” says Rob. “The waste fluid is also detrimental to the environment.”

EcoEthic's MullToa Waterless Composting Toilet is one of the only closed-loop composting toilets available, meaning the automated system works to evaporate liquid inside the toilet as soon as you close the

lid. Sensors light up when its time to be emptied – no backup drains required. “This means you can finally get a toilet in the boathouse, the bunkie or other places – anywhere where there is electrical power – and not have to worry about it again,” says Catharine, adding that installation is easy.



ALL-NATURAL SEPTIC SYSTEM SUPPORT

“The urban lifestyle has crept into the cottage lifestyle, and septic systems are bearing the brunt of it,” says Rob. Antimicrobial and chlorinated cleansers, and other harmful chemicals we use everyday, can reduce the efficiency of your septic system.

By flushing EcoEthic's all-natural Septic System & Drain Treatment down the toilet once a month, you're increasing the bacteria in the your tank, eliminating odours, and increasing the overall functioning of your septic system. “It results in cleaner effluent leaving the system, which is much more beneficial to the environment and planet, too.”

EcoEthic Septic Treatment

- ✓ easy to use
- ✓ eliminates odours
- ✓ septic system-boosting
- ✓ commercial grade
- ✓ environmentally beneficial

CONTACT: ecoethic.ca
(888) 436-3996

Brought to you by



Yes, you can have high-speed Internet

Prepare to celebrate—Xplornet is rolling out rural speeds that match urban in 2015!

You're about to extend weekends at the cottage by one day, or more. You may even put in a request to work from the cottage. Xplornet Communications – already the most accessible broadband provider in rural Canada – is launching a new network that will supply rural Canadians with download speeds up to 25 Mbps in the next few years. That means you can stream Super HD content on Netflix, upload and share photos in just seconds and hop on business meetings reliably – all from different devices at the same time.

“Ensuring access to multiple-user high speed Internet, no matter where you live in Canada, has been Xplornet’s *raison d’être* since its inception,” says Andrew Clemens, Ontario’s Marketing Manager. “Our new Long Term Evolution (LTE) fixed-wireless network will give even the most remote homes and business in Canada access to the same amazing online experiences, at affordable prices, similar to their urban counterparts,” he adds.

FASTER THAN EVER, EVERYWHERE

Xplornet’s expanding on its existing 4G satellites, by

Why Xplornet’s the better option

- Reliable high-speed 4G Internet up to 25 Mbps!
- Choice of packages to suit your needs – monthly bandwidth allowance as big as 250GB.
- Great local dealers
- No outrageous bandwidth overages charges
- Fixed wireless and Satellite options to reach remote cottages



“LTE is over two times faster than what we have on the market today, and can be five times faster than hub/stick!”

upgrading its fixed wireless network of towers to offer LTE data services. “Xplornet has effectively ended Canada’s urban/rural digital divide. LTE is over two times faster than what we have on the market today, and can be five times faster than hub/stick,” says Clemens. Plus – Xplornet already expanded on its number of fixed wireless high speed towers built in cottage country, and in the near future those towers will have access to LTE speeds.

AFFORDABILITY AND VALUE

Xplornet offers satellite service at competitive prices (starting around \$50 a month). And

this summer in select cottage regions, customers will be able to enjoy 25 Mbps download speeds with over 200GB of data.

Another advantage is its low installation cost of \$99. “Cottagers used to be looking at \$250 or more for installation of high-speed Internet,” explains Clemens. Xplornet offers a variety of very competitive data packages to suit the needs of cottagers and residents. “We recognize that every household has different needs when it comes to internet usage.”

Finally, you count on Xplornet dealers, who are experienced at assessing your needs, to ‘right-size’ you to ensure you

end up with the ideal package. And when you do need support, its customer care support team is available 24/7.

PRIORITIZING EXISTING CUSTOMERS

“We’re making a conscious effort to take care of our existing customers. If we have a satellite that is nearing capacity, we’re not jeopardizing the experience of customers.” This commitment means Xplornet customers will have super-fast Internet anywhere – and everywhere – they need it.

CONTACT: xplornet.com
844-207-4108

Solar water heating and solar electricity at the cottage – it's now practical!

Solar Ontario introduces the CyboEnergy Mini-CI-1200H and 1200H/N solar inverters – first-of-a-kind solar heating and electrical power applications



Brought to you by



▲ This inverter unit (plus your solar panels) is all you need to preheat water and generate backup power from the sun.

When journalists need accurate information about solar power, they call Andrew McKegney, a recognized authority and president of Oakville, Ont.-based Solar Ontario. Since 1979, McKegney has installed over 1,000 solar water heating systems, including the three largest solar pool heating systems in Canada. He says he's never seen anything like the CyboEnergy's new CyboInverter 1200H. "It's an utterly simple and affordable solar water heating system which can be used with or without backup – perfect for cottagers who would like to reduce their dependency on electricity or propane."

HOW IT WORKS

"In a nutshell, the inverter optimizes the collection of electricity from solar electrical (PV) panels, converts it to AC voltage, and delivers that to power to an electric water heater or a space heater." The system itself

consists of the inverter and a standard electric cable that connects the inverter and solar panels to an electric heating element in either a water heater or a baseboard heater. A standard 240 volt switch is used to disconnect the heater from the solar inverter. "You can count on it to heat or preheat your hot water in the summer and provide some winter maintenance heating," says McKegney.

EASY TO INSTALL

"It's so easy to install that a cottager could do it themselves," adds McKegney. That's because the solar inputs to the Cybo-Inverter are 35-40 volts DC and the output is 240VAC. Plus, unlike old solar hot water systems that use glycol antifreeze,

SHOW STOPPER

► Don't miss the solar power and heating presentations at the Spring Cottage Life Show delivered by the experts from Solar Ontario!

pumps and heat exchangers that demand pressure testing, system flushing and much more, the CyboInverter requires no maintenance.

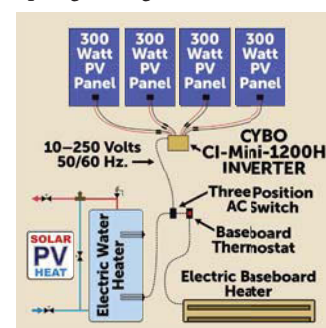
For those cottagers who don't require hot water to be available all of the time, a "solar-only" water heating configuration is an option. However, a backup source of heat will likely be required for those with a high or year-round hot water demand.

ENJOY BACKUP POWER, TOO!

The latest CyboInverter 1200H/N model not only provides solar hot water, it also gives homeowners an emergency backup solar electric power system – with or without batteries, on-grid or off-grid. "When the heating needs of the hot water tank have been satisfied, the system switches circuits and you have 120 volt electricity available for emergency needs," explains McKegney. In its heating mode, the CyboInverter can power

heating cables, hot plates, cookware and many devices with electric heating elements. In its emergency power mode, it can power battery chargers, radios, lights, computers, TVs and other moderate-wattage equipment.

"Not only is this technology a terrific solution for cottagers who want to shift off-grid, it's taking them one step closer to more energy efficient, environmentally-friendly living." Ask about dealer opportunities at the Spring Cottage Life Show booth.



CONTACT: solarontario.com
(905) 845-2433

CanadaDocks™ is rolling out all the stops

CanadaDocks™ introduces the Standing Dock Wheel Kit

Summers are short. With only a few months to enjoy those precious moments at the cottage, every minute counts. CanadaDocks™ knows this all too well and offers a wide range of standing and floating aluminum docks made to make cottage life easier.

This year they've added the Standing Dock Wheel Kit to their product line. This clever design works seamlessly with their existing standing docks. You simply slide the wheels into place, roll the dock into



CanadaDocks™ are available in standing and floating modules.

the water and anchor it down. "We're always looking for ways to make things easier for our customers," says Cindy Belanger of CanadaDocks™. "The wheel kit was the next logical step."

CanadaDocks™ unique aluminum dock system has no welded features, resulting in a stronger, lighter and superior looking product. Additionally,

the aluminum is corrosion resistant, so the dock will last for decades with no maintenance required.

Make the switch to a dock that's built to last. Visit the showroom in Alliston, Ontario to view displays.

CONTACT: canadadocks.ca
(877) 434-0359

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Portable and eco-friendly

Softubs are the most cottage-friendly hot tubs available

Brought to you by



Weighing as little as 50 pounds unfilled, Canadian-manufactured Softubs are readily transported to water-bound cottages, and located pretty much anywhere on-site – even a dock. When cottage season is over, the emptied tub pops onto the back of a utility trailer for transport back home and use over the winter months.

Wayne Fraser recognized the tremendous benefits of a Softub for cottagers when he bought the manufacturing rights for Canada and set up shop in Sudbury, Ont. 25 years ago. "You can set it up on the weekend on grass, flat rock, a patio or a dock, and it plugs into a 110 volt outlet," explains Fraser.



"It's a terrific gathering spot at the cottage, especially for keeping an eye on kids," he adds. "Having one also extends the cottage season."

Plus, because Softubs uses waste heat from the motor instead of featuring a heater, you're saving on electricity costs. "That means it's ready 24/7!"

CONTACT: softubcanada.com
(800) 668-8827

Custom homes built on integrity

Village Builders workmanship stands the test of time

Brought to you by



Quality craftsmanship explains why Village Builders is still thriving after 35 years of custom home builds, and renovations of everything from kitchens to bathrooms. "Anything can look great at first," says Doug Abbott who runs the family business in Creemore, Ont., "but the true quality of the work reveals itself years later."

Unlike competitors who sub-contract all the work, Village Builders' work stands

the test of time thanks to in-house craftsman who do all the woodworking. It also holds itself accountable to third-party review by GuildQuality, which singled out the firm for customer service. "We take pride in our work whether it's a \$10,000 or \$10 million job," says Abbott. "Every home is built with integrity."

CONTACT: villagebuilders.ca
(705) 466-3202

3-in-1 purifying system chosen by Ontario Parks

Proven ozone design by Aclarus disinfects, oxidates and improves the taste of drinking water

It's a testament to the effectiveness of Aclarus ozone-based water treatment system that it was chosen by Ontario Parks for two large systems to remove contaminants from drinking water and greatly improve efficiencies. "The parks engineers were impressed with our system's powerful treatment abilities as well as both its short- and long-term savings," says Adam Doran, co-owner of Aclarus with cousin Mike Doran and three business partners. "We continue to grow as high-grade dairy and food companies, and industrial and engineering firms all over the world adopt the Aclarus proprietary ozone system." Cottagers can reap the same benefits from the proven three-in-one system.



Save! Aclarus is offering a discount to anyone who puts down a payment on a system at the Cottage Life Show.

ALL-NATURAL WATER PURIFICATION

"Ozone is all-natural, faster, stronger and safer than chlorine, produced with only air and low-watt electricity," says Adam. Ozone preserves healthy water minerals, and breaks down to oxygen for great tasting water,

safe for people and the environment, he adds. In addition to disinfection, ozone also oxidizes metals like iron and is the best method for removing sulphur, algae, tannin, colour – even pesticides and many chemicals – all in one easy system

LOW MAINTENANCE AND A TWO-YEAR WARRANTY

Aclarus' proprietary ozone systems are NSF-certified, Canadian built and run at very low power, working on-flow, on-demand. "They can be self-installed by owners or local plumbers easily," says Adam, and require minimal maintenance compared to conventional systems such as ultraviolet light.

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- ✓ Proven Canadian technology, NSF-certified, in use around the world

"They ensure whole home treatment from any water source – no more hauling bottles to the cottage!" Be sure to ask about Aclarus's two-year warranty and its expanding dealer network.

CONTACT: aclarus.ca
(888) 705-8801

Cottage Toys is (super) serious about fun

You'll find the biggest selection of water sports product – and experienced advice you need to choose right – at Cottage Toys

Brought to you by



You've got to appreciate the reason why Donna Rork launched Cottage Toys, Ontario's leading retailer of water sports and surf lifestyle product 25 years ago. "I wanted ready access to more toys," admits the former Windsurf Instructor. She didn't actually discover how much she loved water sports until 18, but was hooked after her first dock start. And her passion for getting the most out of lake has only grown over the years, says husband Andrew Rork, who quit his day job 15 years ago to help Donna source top-line products that enhance fun on the lake. "We know this stuff inside and out. Our knowledge about equipment is unparalleled," he adds.

The selection at Cottage Toys is also unparalleled: at the Lakefield store, cottagers will find over 400 wake boards and 100 slalom skis on display, in addition to tons of other fun water sports and rec equipment – from paddle boards to kayaks to water trampolines – as well as surf apparel. "We believe people should have a choice, that's why we carry every major brand on the market," explains Donna, adding that they've tested about 90 percent of the product at their own cottage on Stoney Lake. "We can give every type of water sports enthusiast, from beginner to advanced, recommendations on what will work best for them and why."

The Rorks are confident in



Modular components, including climbers and runways, transform inflatable water trampolines into a virtual water park on the lake!

their expertise, but they also want cottagers to be confident in the products they buy. So customers can rent products at one of their four locations (Lakefield, Bancroft, Peterborough or Stoney Lake), and put three rental credits toward final purchase. "We're serious about

making sure cottagers have the most fun possible playing on the water," says Donna. "That's what sets us apart." Get excited about your next in-store visit – check out the inventory at cottage toys.ca.

CONTACT: cottage toys.ca
(705) 741-2150

Rentcottage.com – Ontario's number one waterfront cottage rental company

Generate significant rental revenue for your property hassle-free by partnering with Ontario's largest cottage rental company



Dave Craig is an experienced waterfront cottage real estate investor and accumulated 18 rental cottages over time, all of which he rented via Rentcottage.com prior to purchasing the company in 2012. Craig was so pleased with the hassle-free rental revenue Rentcottage.com generated for him, that he purchased the

company when the opportunity arose in January of 2012. Today, his portfolio of waterfront cottages – located in Ontario's spectacular Bruce Peninsula, Lake Huron, Georgian Bay shoreline, Muskoka, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes areas – has nearly doubled to around 400 properties.

► **Significant rental income potential** Well maintained waterfront cottages can rent for between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per week (sometimes more) during the peak summer season.

► **Large advertising budget** Rentcottage.com has a large annual advertising budget (in excess of \$125,000), which is spent mainly on Google and Facebook Adword campaigns

to ensure that Rentcottage.com is displayed prominently among the top three cottage rental companies when potential customers do internet searches for Ontario cottage rentals. All of Rentcottage.com's properties are advertised on the main www.rentcottage.com website, plus seven other websites, notably TripAdvisor/FlipKey.com, CanadaStays.com and CottageLife.com to ensure maximum market exposure for our cottage owners.

► **Screening process** Rentcottage.com has a highly experienced team of reservationists and a time-tested guest screening process, which ensures that appropriate guests are matched with appropriate properties.

► **Damage waiver protection**

Rentcottage.com provides all of their cottage owners with accidental damage waiver protection of up to \$3,000 per rental, which protects their owners in the unusual event an incident arises.

► **Hassle-free service** Rentcottage.com handles all aspects of marketing your property, screening applicants, accepting deposits and final payment for bookings and providing detailed income and expense reports for owners, thus creating a hassle-free way for owners to market their properties and generate rental revenue.

CONTACT: rentcottage.com
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You already know that roofing's an important architectural feature of your cottage's design. And since roofing is a big investment, you want it to last as long as possible. That's why cottagers are increasingly opting for 100% recyclable – 40-year-plus warranted – Vicwest Metal Roofing.

"The average shingle roof only lasts 15 years before it has to be replaced," explains Jane Swayze, Marketing Development Manager at Vicwest. "After working out the math, homeowners realize that metal roofing actually costs less in the long-run because of its incredible durability."

That's why builders such as Jim Caruk recommend Vicwest Metal Roofing: it won't crack,



The owners of this Peterborough cottage installed Vicwest's Granite Ridge shingles after learning about it at last year's Cottage Life Show!

break, burn, curl, split or rot, it stands up to severe winds, rains, hail, and insect infestations. "It also won't be compromised by sap or pine needles, which are the leading cause of premature roof deterioration in cottage regions," adds Swayze. Every

great product is supported by a great warranty. "The most popular shingle style, the Granite Ridge, comes with a 50-year non-prorated warranty, meaning it won't lessen over time, and it's also transferable – boosting resale value."

The clincher for cottagers is how closely the Granite Ridge resembles today's traditional shingles, but without the drawbacks. Seeing is believing: check out how it will look on your cottage and compare choices today by uploading a photo into Vicwest's free online visualizer at vicwestmetalroofing.com, where you can also find a local installer. Or stop by Vicwest's booth at the Spring Cottage Life show for additional information.

CONTACT: vicwestmetalroofing.com



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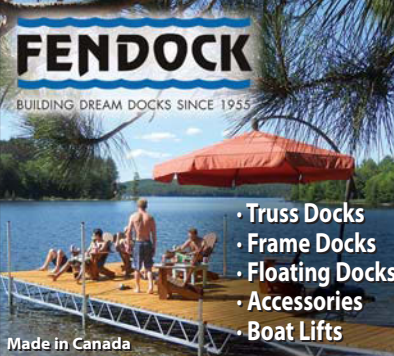
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